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Cuba

Human Rights Specialists Debate Issues

FL1905020893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] On 18 May, a group of Cuban specialists analyzed the human rights issue. Free of all prejudice and guilt, they are convinced Cuba will go to Vienna with its head held high, because right is on its side. Several specialists on the issue who belong to the Union of Cuban Lawyers, the Center of Studies on the Americas, and the Ministry of Foreign Relations [Minrex] adopted the idea that the debate on human rights should begin now at home instead of in June, when the summit will be held in Austria.

The address given by Minrex specialist Carlos Alzugaray caught the interest of those present at the conference. Alzugaray pointed out how the U.S. blockade against Cuba violates from abroad several basic human rights of the Cuban people. On 2 February 1962, President John F. Kennedy imposed a total blockade on Cuba, which, in Alzugaray's opinion, has affected our basic rights.

[Begin Alzugaray recording] First, we have the basic human right that was discussed here today: the people's right to free determination. From the start, it was clear that the blockade mueasures were aimed at impeding or creating an obstacle to the establishment of a new economic and social system in Cuba, which was also the result of the sovereign will of the Cuban people and which has been demonstrated through different means.

To a certain degree, the blockade also impedes the use and exploitation of our natural resources. I am speaking of tourism, specifically. Obviously, with our being so close to the United States, U.S. tourism should be our main market. It is obvious that we cannot exploit our tourism capabilities, or our natural resources in the tourism sector, as long as the blockade is in effect.

The second basic human right that is being violated by the blockade is the people's right to development. I would like to underscore just two things. Recently, Cuba has twice had to redirect its foreign trade, or its international business relations. In addition, we have had to do so in a very short period of time. I do not think—and Osvaldo [not further indentified] can correct me if I am wrong—that there has been a similar case in recent or contemporary history.

This brings me to the conclusion that the other basic human rights being violated, in addition to the people's right to development, which is probably a much more sensitive issue in this specific time, in 1993, are, first, the right to life, and, second, the right to living conditions adequate to the people's health and well being, including food, clothing, housing, and health care. [end recording]

The debates on human rights in Cuba will continue tomorrow.

ICAP, Ukraine Group Sign Cooperation Accord

FL1905015893 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 May 93

[Interview with Sergio Corrieri, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples, by Felix Fernando Garrido—live]

[Excerpt] [Garrido] I am at the office of the president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples [ICAP], Sergio Corrieri Hernandez, because the members of the delegation from the Chernobyl's Children Welfare Fund are here talking with the leadership of the ICAP.

We would like Corrieri to tell us what this gesture of solidarity toward Cuba represents and what it represents for us in terms of the beginning of a cooperation, which logically could last indefinitely.

[Corrieri] Well, the story is that before the creation of this fund, Cuba took the spontaneous, voluntary initiative—on the basis of our solidarity beliefs—of giving free help to the children affected by the Chernobyl accident.

Most of these children come from the Republic of Ukraine. Over 11,000 children have been treated here. This represents 11,000 families that feel, if they did not before, gratitude, fraternity, and friendship toward Cuba. The creation of the fund came after Cuba offered its help, which has been fulfilled already. When the fund was created to help these children, Cuba is the place where they were helped most. Logically, they established ties with us. This has grown now into donations in light of our recent difficulties with the storm and the optic epidemic. They have donated approximately 300 tons of supplies for the Cuban people. A small portion of this donation is allocated to improve conditions at the camp itself where the Chernobyl children are treated.

Over 30 Ukrainian companies, aware of the problem of their own children, participated in this campaign. The mothers of these children also participated, as did many institutions. In other words, it is a very noble cause that aroused much sympathy. What we have signed today is simply a pledge to continue working and cooperating in other projects that could range from the exchange of cultural groups and the material help Cuba needs, to our commitment to continue treating many other children still affected by this tragedy.

[Garrido] Within this development of ties, is there anything specific about conducting some other activity soon?

[Corrieri] That is precisely what is being discussed now. There are prospects of specialized tourism from Ukraine to Cuba. They also have the possibility of mounting exhibits or carrying donations on the charter flights that bring and return the children. This is what is being discussed now. [Passage omitted]

Lugo, Contino Present Vanguard Awards to Farmers

FL1805015493 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The Farmers' Day national ceremony hosted by the Union of Young Communists [UJC] was held this afternoon at the Abel Santamaria Agricultural-Livestock Cooperative in El Oasis in Santiago de Cuba Municipality. Orlando Lugo Fonte, the president of the National Association of Small Farmers [ANAP], and Juan Contino, the first secretary of the UJC, presented National Vanguard Pins to 10 young farmers representing those who achieved this satus throughout Cuba. Another eight received UJC membership cards. The main address at the activity, through which the UJC rendered homage to the Cuban farmers on their day, was given by Juan Contino.

[Begin Contino recording] We want to congratulate the ANAP, congratulate all the Cuban farmers on their day, and tell them that the UJC does not feel separate from the ANAP and does not feel apart from the farmers; we are one. Our youth are those whom we have just seen here; are these whom—together with the ANAP National Vanguards honored this morning, several of whom are present—are giving their best effort to the Revolution. We are convinced that this continues to be our position in the face of any task assigned by the leadership of the Communist Party of Cuba and Fidel. [end recording]

WHO, Orbis Doctors Visit Optic Neuritis Centers

FL1705015593 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0000 GMT 17 May 93

[Excerpts] The WHO and Orbis Project have responded to a request made by Cuba before the 46th WHO Assembly recently held in Geneva. A group of specialists of the Orbis Project and a WHO delegation arrived on 16 May to help fight the neuritis epidemic affecting Cuba. The head of the WHO delegation is Dr. Guillermo Llanos, one of the deputy directors of the Pan American Health Organization. [passage omitted]

Dr. James Martone, the medical director of the Orbis Project; Dr. Alfredo Sadum, a specialist in optic neuritis; and other members of this nongovernmental organization which fights blindness in the world also arrived on this flight for humanitarian reasons. [passage omitted]

This cooperation group will stay in Cuba for several days and visit, along with Cuban doctors, hospitals and centers working on optic neuritis treatment and research.

Inter-Caribbean Affairs

Meeting on Regional Parliaments Begins in Dominica

FL1805155793 Bridgetown CANA in English 1510 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, May 18, CANA—Caribbean and Latin American parliamentary speakers, presidents of Senates, and their clerks are taking part in a week-long conference here. They are examining the issue of harmonising the standing orders used by parliaments in the Caribbean.

Thirty-five delegates from 14 Caribbean states and territories along with observers from Canada and the United Kingdom, on Monday began attending the 10th conference of presiding officers and clerks of the Caribbean, The Americas, and the Atlantic region of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association [CPA].

"There is a wealth of knowledge in the Caribbean, and the parliaments, like parliaments throughout the Commonwealth, have been going through a traditional stage of adaptation to present day needs," speaker of the Cayman Islands Legislative Assembly, Sybil McLaughlin, said at the opening.

She urged parliamentary officers to be ready "to meet all the challenges of this new era."

"They must be prepared to take a lead," McLaughlin declared. She said these officials could utilise the CPA conference for making recommendations for more effective parliaments in the Caribbean. The need for parliamentary change in a dynamic era was also addressed by Dominica prime minister, Dame Eugenia Charles, who said the work of the conference would impact on the community at large.

"These persons, these speakers, have come here to study problems, to find solutions to problems, to put down new rules and new guidelines for changing some of the things that we've been doing, because in fact life is changing and we want a different way of doing them," Dame Eugenia said.

Barbados Investment Mission To Pomote Ties With Guyana

FL1805193493 Bridgetown CANA in English 1810 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, May 18, CANA—A government-backed trade and investment mission from Barbados will visit Guyana between July 11-15, seeking to boost business ties with the public and private sectors, Barbados' high commissioner to Guyana, Frank da Silva, said here Monday.

The Guyanese-born Da Silva, who left Tuesday after a near week-long visit, said the mission will comprise public and private sector representatives.

"Their focus is to look at complimentary investments in Guyana, combining the strengths we may have with the strengths that you have," Da Silva told reporters.

The areas covered includes service industries, joint ventures in the manufacturing sector, especially in the furniture business where indigenous Guyanese wood could be used and the product marketed in Barbados.

Da Silva said Barbadian technical and managerial skills could also be utilised in Guyana's growing private sector. "Some of your entrepreneurs have already been looking to Barbados," he said.

The high commissioner told reporters he held discussions with both Finance Minister Asgar Ally and Central Bank Governor Archibald Meredith, to find "innovative ways" to reduce Guyana's US77 million dollar debt to the defunct Caribbean Multilateral Clearing Facility (CMCF) "more productively".

He said. "By using it more productively, we can see whether we cannot create jobs in Guyana...possibly some jobs for the Barbados technical managerial level people where they are needed and see whether the production that arises out of such efforts could not be exported so that both countries could benefit".

Asked if the two countries might pursue debt for equity swaps to wipe off the CMCF debt, he replied: "We're open to any ideas once it's fair to all concerned".

The Guyanese-born diplomat said it would make "considerable good sense" for Guyana to look for technical and managerial skills within the region first before looking elsewhere.

Exports to both countries, the diplomat told newsmen, should go up after the July mission.

He brushed aside suggestions that Barbados still had several trade barriers which restricted intra-regional trade, pointing out that the island imported about 25 per cent of the region's products.

Da Silva acknowledged he was asked by Education Minister Dr Dale Bisnauth, to investigate reports of harassment and poor treatment of Guyanese students attending the St. Agustine campus of the University of the West Indies.

Said the high commissioner: "I have undertaken to be in touch with the Guyanese students at the minister's request to ensure that if there is anything that impinges on their arrival or leaving Barbados that ought not to happen. That we'll deal with it very effectively."

Grenada

Prime Minister Brathwaite 'Gets Tough' With Unions

FL1805170093 Bridgetown CANA in English 1624 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, May 18, CANA—The Grenada Government will introduce legislation to resolve disruptive industrial action at the St. George's Port as prime minister Nicholas Brathwaite gets tough with trade unions here.

"In the search for a solution to the industrial problem at the St. George's docks, the baton has now passed to the state, and the state cannot afford to drop the baton. The buck stops here," Prime Minister Brathwaite told Grenadians in a nationwide adddress Monday [17 May] evening.

He said the government would introduce amendments to the Trade Disputes Arbitration and Inquiry Act that would allow the state to step in to settle disputes it considers vital interests whether or not the parties agree on the terms of reference or composition of a tribunal. He said the legislation would make any solution by the tribunal, "binding and final," and cannot be challenged in a court of law, except on the grounds of "points of law."

The move is seen here as a response to the failure of the Seamen and Waterfront Workers Union (SWWU) to agree with the findings of several committees, set up with its agreement, to bring an end to the problems at the port.

"...We cannot postpone action any longer if we are to avoid the disastrous economic consequences which will result from the continuing impasse at the port," the prime minister told reporters.

According to the prime minister, the government may be unable to meet its financial obligations at the end of May, because of the continued industrial action at the main St. George's Port, causing a shortfall of more than EC100,000 dollars per day in revenues. The prime minister, in what appeared to be a resolute mood, told reporters the impasse is harming the country's Structural Adjustment Programme [SAP] and is pushing the island close to an agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF).

"The strike threatens to destroy our economy and land, placing Grenada, Carriacou, and Petit Martinique into the clutches of an IMF SAP with its non-negotiable stringent conditionalities," the Grenadian leader said. He added: "As a result of the loss of revenue, government might well find it impossible to meet its obligations at the end of May." He said continued industrial dislocation was undermining the "home-grown" SAP.

Under the new arrangement, the Grenada Ports Authority will take full responsibility for labour on the port, which previously was supplied by the SWWU.

"We are calling on the government to withhold the passage of this bill until there has been meaningful dialogue and consultation on a national level with all the parties concerned," trade unionist Derek Allard told reporters Monday. The unions had planned a picket of Parliament Tuesday [18 May].

"We consider the bill anti-worker and we will protest its passage in the house," Allard said, noting that the labour movement would not allow things to "be rushed down our throats," and erode the base of trade unionism in Grenada. The trade unions say the government is moving to re-instate the Emergency Powers Act, dropped by the Herbert Blaize administration in 1986, in a clandestine manner.

"The measure is removing the workers right to strike and that right is the essence of trade unionism," Allard told CANA.

President Submits Bill on Bank of Mexico Autonomy

PA1805151893 Mexico City XHTV Television Network in Spanish 0200 GMT 18 May 93

[Report by Daniel Flores Meneses]

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari inaugurated the Fourth National Convention of Insurance Companies at Los Pinos official residence.

President Salinas de Gortari explained to insurance company representatives the scope of the bill he submitted to the Chamber of Deputies on the morning of 17 May. The bill seeks autonomy for the Bank of Mexico.

President Salinas de Gortari said the bill to give the Bank of Mexico full autonomy is another step in consolidating the process that has made it possible to lower inflation and create conditions to prevent its resurgence.

[Begin Salinas de Gortari recording] I would like to mention the reasons for adopting this important measure, which will guarantee permanent, accurate, effective, and continuous scrutiny of the country's public finances. [end recording]

Salinas de Gortari inaugurated the Fourth National Convention of Insurance Companies in the Adolfo Lopez Mateo Room at Los Pinos. He added:

[Begin Salinas de Gortari recording] This initiative will reinforce its autonomy, giving the bank power to regulate—along with the competent authorities—credit, exchange, and financial services. It gives the bank the necessary authority to issue regulations and ensure they are complied with. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari said the initiative proposes that the Bank of Mexico directors, appointed by the president of the Republic and confirmed by the Senate or the Permanent Commission, should remain in their posts for longer periods and be replaced at different times, to guarantee the institution's stability and reduce government influence.

President Salinas de Gortari said countries with autonomous central banks have lower inflation rates.

[Begin Salinas de Gortari] These reforms will enable the Bank of Mexico to counterbalance not only the natural demands and objectives the government legitimately seeks, but also the expectations of the various social sectors as a result of monetary expansion and the increase in prices and costs. Monetary policy will be more stable and consistent in the future. [end recording]

President Salinas de Gortari said the initiative calls for taking another step forward in state reforms to guarantee price stability, a necessary factor for development.

Further on Autonomy Proposal

PA1805185893 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] President Carlos Salinas de Gortari proposed to the Congress that the Bank of Mexico be granted autonomy. The initiative establishes that the bank's main objective is to preserve stability in purchasing power. In this way, another step is being taken to consolidate efforts to overcome inflation and create institutional conditions to avoid the continuous price hikes that have besieged the nation in the past. The president's proposal claims that by granting the Bank of Mexico autonomy, the printing of money will be separated from other state tasks. Should this be approved, the initiative would take from the government its ability to force the Bank of Mexico to grant it financing. In this way, states the document released by the Presidency, one more step is taken in state reform with the specific transfer of powers that have been in the hands of the federal executive.

In his proposal, the president of the Republic reveals to the legislators that during his government he has not made full use of his ability to obtain credit from the Bank of Mexico. On the contrary, large amounts of debt have been paid off to the bank. The president stressed that the federal government's internal debt was reduced from 28 to 12 percent of the gross domestic product from 1988 to 1992. Moreover, inflation, which in 1987 rose to 167 percent, fell in 1992 to 11.9 percent. The president of the Republic also mentioned in his proposal that for the first time in three decades, discipline in public finances caused a fiscal surplus 1992. The president's initiative proposes to assure the central bank's autonomy through two measures: First that the bank can count on total freedom to manage its own credit, and second that its management is entrusted to persons who hold the position for longer periods of time during which they cannot be removed, except if they are found to commit serious crimes.

This proposal is in keeping with the trend observed in the majority of developed nations and in some nations on the road to industrialization.

Finance Secretariat Reports First Quarter Budget Surplus

PA1705171893 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Jaime Guerrero]

[Text] During the first quarter of 1993, the country registered a public finance budget surplus of 6.253 billion new pesos, 4.9 percent more than the figure recorded through December 1992. As a result of this surplus, the public sector has continued to pay its debt. The Federal Government's total internal debt was reduced by 1.2 billion new pesos and is now 120.19

billion new pesos, according to the Finance Secretariat's quarterly report on public finances.

The report, which was sent to the Chamber of Deputies, calls for strict adherence to fiscal discipline as part of the current economic strategy to achieve single digit inflation and to channel a larger amount of resources to social spending.

The Finance Secretariat adds that the Federal Government's foreign debt has increased by a little over $1 billion, a figure that is consistent with the total debt authorized by Congress for 1993. Thus, the gross foreign debt is approximately $77.327 billion. The Secretariat announced that during the first quarter, over $5 billion was paid toward foreign debt principal and interest.

The Secretariat announced that fiscal and budgetary discipline created a primary surplus of 14 billion [figure as heard] new pesos. Public sector income was 67.356 billion new pesos, while expenses were 60 billion new pesos, 1.6 percent less than recorded during the first quarter of 1992. This is the result of having paid 32.2 percent less toward debt interest. Most of these resources were channeled primarily to social spending. To conclude, the report mentions that the Development Bank contracted a foreign debt of $1.5 billion to finance the country's export sector and small and medium sized businesses.

Pemex Reports First Quarter Oil Refining Production Figures

PA1805173593 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0915 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Mexico City, 18 May (NOTIMEX)—Subsidiary Pemex-Refining has produced a daily average of 1.5894 million barrels per day [BPD] of petroleum byproducts during the first quarter of 1993, Mexican Petroleum (Pemex) has reported.

The company noted that with the implementation of advanced refining techniques, it obtained a better quality of petroleum byproducts such as premium gasoline, desulfurized diesel, and jet fuel [turbosina].

Pemex explained that this is in keeping with the policy of processing larger amounts of heavy crude oil in the refineries operating in Mexico to produce larger levels of light petroleum for sale in foreign markets.

During the first quarter, the company reported, Pemex-Refining also produced a daily average of 471,300 BPD of premium gasoline, as well as naphthas used later as raw material in petrochemical production.

Pemex added that 269,000 BPD of desulfurized or special diesel were produced, with 250,300 BPD of liquefied gas and 77,200 BPD of kerosene, including jet fuel production.

Regarding fuel oil [combustoleo] production, Pemex concluded that from January to March of 1993 it produced 412,400 BPD and 109,200 BPD of other refined products such as asphalts, paraffins, solvents, greases, and lubricants.

Guatemala

Revolutionary Party Deputy Shot, Hospital Threatened

PA1905035293 Guatemala City Teleonce Television in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Deputy Edgar Chinchilla Vega was wounded by gunfire in southern Guatemala on the morning of 18 May. One of his bodyguards was killed and the other was wounded when several individuals opened fire on the deputy's car on 5th Avenue and 8th Street in Zone 9 shortly before 0800 [1300 GMT]. Although he was shot at least four times, Chinchilla was reported out of danger at Zone 10's medical center at 1130. Chinchilla, the only Revolutionary Party representative at the Congress, entered the operating room at 1000 for an estimated two to three hours of surgery. Silvia Vasquez de Chinchilla, his wife, said at the medical center that she had been told her husband's life was not in immediate danger.

Chinchilla and his bodyguards were riding in a Japanese-made car near La Industria Square, Zone 9, at around 0735 when approximately 10 armed men opened fire on them from at least three vehicles. Some 50 bullets riddled the car, hitting Chinchilla four times. Nevertheless, he managed to open the car door, hurled himself onto the pavement, and repelled the attack. No one knows whether or not he wounded any of his attackers. Jose Antonio Portillo Flores, one of his bodyguards, also returned fire but was wounded three times in the chest. Edgar Rando Gonzalez, the other bodyguard, died at the scene of the attack. The wounded bodyguard reported that the attackers carried portable radios. However, he could not give much detail as to the cars used in the attack. Municipal and voluntary firemen assisted the wounded men.

Chinchilla had reported the day before that Andres Cortes, one of his security agents, was the person who fired on commerce student Ander Hernandez Orellana, who died in an incident last week in the area where the Legislative Building and the Central Men's Institute are located.

Early in the 1980's, Chinchilla led the National Liberation Movement [MLN] in his home department of Chiquimula. In 1984, he was elected deputy to the National Constituent Assembly and to a seat at the Congress as MLN representative. He quit the party over disagreements with other leaders and continued to work alone. In 1990, he was reelected deputy for the only seat that the Revolutionary Party won at the Congress. He has generally been a controversial figure in national politics and has had strong verbal exchanges with congressmen of various factions at the parliament building. Chinchilla last year was twice accused of possessing allegedly stolen vehicles. A pretrial for him was announced this year but was later declared inappropriate, as has happened to pretrials with other deputies.

The police are searching Guatemala City for the assailants in the attack. The result of these operations has not yet been disclosed. It has been reported that Chinchilla was usually accompanied by four bodyguards, but for some reason only two of them were with him today. The police took Chinchilla's vehicle to a street near Industria Square, where authorities were studying it before 1200.

[Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish at 0125 GMT on 19 May reports from Guatemala City: "Unidentified people have threatened to dynamite Centro Medico Hospital in the next few hours. Opposition Deputy Obdulio Chinchilla Vega, who was attacked in downtown Guatemala City on the morning of 18 May, is recovering at that hospital. The vehicle in which the legislator was traveling was hit by more than 40 high-caliber bullets. Rolando Gonzalez Herrera, his bodyguard, died at the scene, while Jose Guillermo Portillo Flores, another member of Chinchilla's security team, was wounded. A series of anonymous telephone calls alerted the government security forces to the possibility of a bomb, which immediately prompted them to boost security at the private hospital as a precaution. Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro De Leon Carpio expressed his disappointment about the atmosphere in the country and asked the government to protect Chinchilla, who has undergone several operations due to the wounds he suffered in the attack. The attack against Deputy Chinchilla Vega occurred a little over 24 hours after he revealed the identity of the person responsible for the death of a high school student on 11 May during a student demonstration."]

Rebels Say Serrano Responsible for Repression

PA1805155093 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 17 May 93 p 3

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] Command on 16 May said President Serrano Elias was responsible for the consequences of the government's repression and intimidation tactics against students and grass roots organizations.

The URNG issued a communique asking the government to assess the situation and quickly find effective, just, and impartial solutions to the people's pressing problems. The struggle by students, teachers, and grass roots organizations is legitimate because it is related to their critical needs, the document stated.

The communique added that the past municipal elections have only made a serious situation worse because the government's Pyrrhic victory has only emphasized two very serious and interrelated facts.

The communique states: "On the one hand, a 70 percent abstention rate should be cause for shame and concern instead of boasting, because the Supreme Electoral Tribunal made charges of blackmail and manipulation of government funds, which the president encouraged to win the mayoralties. On the other hand, the Civic Committees did well in the elections. That should make everybody stop and think about the political situation."

"Police repression of student demonstrations is nothing more than a logical corollary to such an unstable and contradictory situation. You can see it in the threats against people involved in human rights issues, in the raids on human rights organizations, and in the dispute with the human rights attorney general," the document adds.

In addition to everything else we must add Defense Minister Domingo Garcia's most recent charges wherein he attempts to give another meaning to the legitimate protests of the grass roots organizations by linking their actions to the URNG so he can justify repressive actions, the guerrilla command communique concludes.

15 UCN Deputies Resign From Party

PA1905031993 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 18 May 93 p 2

[Text] Fifteen Union of the National Center (UCN) deputies decided on the night of 17 May to resign from that political organization. The decision was made as a result of the UCN's recent internal conflicts that had forced the UCN National Executive Committee to turn over to the party's Honor Tribunal the leaders of a pro-government movement in the UCN legislative faction. The deputies decided to resign from the party and to form their own congressional faction after several hours of discussion on the night of 17 May.

The deputies who resigned from the UCN are: Ernesto Contreras, Leonel Brolo Campos, Carlos Acevedo Chavarria, Mario Alfonso Gaitan, Mario Gonzalez Jurado, Eduardo Mendez Pinelo, Pedro Gomez Chavez, and Anibal Sandoval.

They were joined by Jorge Monroy, Saul Juarez, Antonio Garcia Secaida, Mario de la Cruz, Fernando Pereira, Ricardo Roca, and Ramiro Arriola.

The UCN deputies said that after they decided to leave the UCN, they prepared a document explaining the reasons for their resignation. In the document, they strongly criticized the National Executive Committee, Jorge Carpio's leadership, and the mistakes made in handling the campaign during the recent municipal elections.

One of the deputies said that a news conference will be held at 0930 on 18 May in Congress to give more details of the resignation and to make known the position of the new legislative faction that will be formed by the 15 dissidents.

University Students, Police Clash Leaves Several Injured

PA1905005293 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2303 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Guatemala City, 18 May (NOTIMEX)—Riot police used tear gas on 18 May to disperse a demonstration by students of the University of San Carlos. The police also entered the university campus.

Witnesses said the students had placed barricades and were burning tires in front of the university to protest the increase in electricity rates and the government's repression of recent demonstrations.

The university students used rocks and sticks against the riot forces, which responded by using tear gas and entering several meters inside the university campus, in violation of the university's autonomy.

The confrontation between the riot police and the students left several students and policemen injured.

Brigade Commander Arrested in Contreras Escape Case

PA1805163593 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 15 May 93

[Text] President Jorge Serrano has confirmed that Colonel Luis Felipe Miranda, commander of the Mariscal Zavala Brigade, and several other officers and soldiers were arrested for their alleged participation in the escape of Captain Hugo Contreras, who was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the murder of rancher Michael Devine.

The president spoke to the media after inaugurating the runway remodeling project at La Aurora Airport. He did not offer any details about how Capt. Contreras might have fled from the military stockade.

Serrano said the Contreras escape has placed the Armed Forces in a difficult position, which led to the decision to take disciplinary action against the officers commanding said military brigade. When he made his statements, the president was accompanied by Defense Minister General Jose Domingo Garcia Samayoa and Gen. Jorge Alberto Perussina, chief of the General Staff of National Defense.

We believe, he added, officers are innocent. They did not participate in Contreras' escape. The arrest of Brigade Commander Col. Miranda, the commander of the guard, and several soldiers was ordered as a disciplinary measure.

He stressed that this is the first time a commander has been arrested, but said "it was necessary to take this disciplinary measure." He explained the reasons for the decision. He said the necessary investigations will be carried out to determine the degree of responsibility of those who participated in the escape of the soldier convicted of the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Vernon Devine.

Capt. Julio Alberto Yon Rivera, chief of the Army Information and Press Department, confirmed that Army members are searching for Capt. Contreras after his escape from the Mariscal Zavala Brigade. Minister Garcia Samayoa, he said, ordered that all security forces search for the fugitive and bring him before the court. He added that the authorities will determine the responsibility of those soldiers implicated in the escape.

Asked why the Army was keeping Capt. Contreras at a military installation instead of at Pavon Penitentiary, Yon Rivera said that the Military Penal Code states that Army active duty members are protected under the War Privilege, and must therefore serve their sentences at a military installation.

The Peasant Unity Committee (CUC) does not believe that Capt. Contreras really escaped. It believes he was freed by the government and the Army, according to a communique issued by the group on 14 May.

"The government," the communique says, "insists on maintaining impunity and released Capt. Hugo Contreras. This makes us believe it was not an escape."

Justice Hector Hugo Perez Aguilera announced that the Fourth Court Chamber of Appeals suspended proceedings against Capt. Contreras on learning of his escape from prison. He said: We are waiting for the official report from the Judge Advocate on the details of the escape.

He made it clear that because of the seriousness of the matter, Capt. Contreras has no right to request an annulment. If Contreras is recaptured, he underscored, he may exercise his rights by way of another recourse, but he will also have to face charges for this new action, which could mean six months to one year more in prison.

Irma Arrazate Centeno, seventh judge of the First Appeals Court, denied a petition for a personal hearing in favor of Capt. Contreras. She ruled that the investigation requested by the Human Rights Ombudsman was inadmissible and forwarded the case to the Judge Advocate.

She stated that Capt. Contreras is protected by his military status and is subject to a criminal proceeding, therefore, a competent court must handle the case.

Human Rights Ombudsman Ramiro de Leon Carpio demanded the president do everything in his power to recapture Capt. Contreras. The ombudsman, saying that this is not the first time an Army member has escaped from a military stockade, expressed his discouragement in light of the escape of the soldier convicted for the murder of U.S. citizen Michael Devine. He added that this situation causes concern because part of the fight to eliminate impunity is to have those who commit a crime be submitted to the court.

De Leon Carpio said this is not the first episode of this type to occur in the country. He added: "But we must realize that this is part of an effort to avoid facing justice."

Honduras

Fiscal Intervention Commission Reports on Customs

PA1905030893 San Pedro Sula TIEMPO in Spanish 18 May 93 p 10

[Report by the Fiscal Intervention Commission presented to President Rafael Callejas in Tegucigalpa on 17 May]

[Text] The conclusions of the investigation carried out by the Fiscal Intervention Commission [Comision Fiscal Interventora] are as follows:

Conclusions:

1. Illegal fees are knowingly charged at customs offices.
2. The General Customs Directorate is aware of this irregular activity and promotes it by establishing that 35 percent of the proceeds go toward administrative expenses and by accepting that the rest is distributed among the employees.
3. The customs administrators and assistant customs administrators, and even the general director of customs, are responsible for said activity, which is contrary to the fiscal interests of the State.
4. The abnormal activities are not restricted to a specific office or department, but occur throughout the directorate.
5. There is reason to believe that officers and employees receive large salary increases from the illegally collected money and that a minimal portion is left for administrative expenses and for distribution among the lower-level employees.

Recommendations:

The commission hereby respectfully submits the following recommendations to the president:

1. Authorize the Fiscal Intervention Commission to intervene in the General Customs Directorate in order to clean up the country's customs system within 90 days and prepare an adequate control plan to simplify customs procedures, in order to eliminate obstacles and stalling methods that foster corruption in this sector.
2. Encourage extensive purging of officials and employees implicated in such activities.
3. The Commission, in reaching the above conclusions, detected reasonable indications of nationwide corruption throughout the Customs Directorate.
4. Order or encourage, as appropriate, the competent authorities to carry out an investigation of the corporations belonging to Ricardo Adolfo Riedel and the Pichi-Pichi Company in San Pedro Sula.
5. Encourage the Judicial Branch to expedite the lawsuit filed by the Attorney General's Office at the Third Lower Court in San Pedro Sula against Ricardo Adolfo Riedel.
6. Eliminate tax breaks for alleged damages granted to used car importers by customs officials and employees.
7. Eliminate permits improperly granted for certain items under Form 9A, which reduces waiting time to that required by law for other types of merchandise.
8. Eliminate illegal tariffs that individual customs officials and employees are charging airlines, importers, and exporters.
9. Urge the Treasury Ministry to establish shift service at the country's customs desks and warehouses.
10. Have a team of Treasury Ministry auditors intervene in the customs offices. The Commission will brief these officials on the work they will carry out at said customs offices.
11. Have an independent contractor auditing firm periodically supervise the team of auditors.

12. Grant the Commission complete and unrestricted cooperation so that it may continue the in-depth investigations resulting from this report, and compile a complete record of each case, which will be forwarded to the legally appropriate authorities for the law to be enforced.
13. Obtain the lading bills of all merchandise shipped to Honduras, particularly merchandise entering through the maritime ports in containers, to have a true and precise control of their entry and departure.
14. Request the intervention of the Comptroller General's Office, in light of all the irregular activities the Commission has identified at the country's main ports, to carry out the appropriate legal action.

[Signed] Jose Israel Gonzalez M., representative of the government sector;
Ubodoro Arriaga Iraheta, representative of the business sector;
Julian Lagos A., representative of the workers' sector.

Callejas Comments on Report

PA1905031093 Tegucigalpa Voz de Honduras Network in Spanish 1145 GMT 18 May 93

[Statement by President Rafael Leonardo Callejas on Fiscal Intervention Commission report in Tegucigalpa—live]

[Text] I must say that the cases that were investigated were backed by public charges, as that is the only way the Fiscal Intervention Commission can proceed with the investigation.

I must thank Ubodoro Arriaga, Julian Lagos, and Israel Gonzalez for their hard work. This is the beginning of a process I hope will show the government's political willingness to fight corruption. Undoubtedly, there is still much to be done. We have, however, taken an important step forward.

I want to express here publicly that I will implement all the recommendations made by the Fiscal Intervention Commission. As soon as the names of the persons implicated are known, I will suspend them immediately. The persons who were mentioned in the report will be immediately suspended or removed from their posts, with my authorization, based on the information presented by the Fiscal Intervention Commission.

Of course, we must consider that all citizens have a right to a defense. This, however, must be done outside the government. We realize no one enjoys hearing reports of this nature, for various reasons. In some cases, because the persons involved are well- known, and because it shows there is generalized corruption within the Honduran institutional system. We must fight that.

The first thing we will do is issue an executive resolution authorizing the Fiscal Intervention Commission to intervene in the General Customs Directorate. I will issue instructions to the finance minister to that effect. In the same manner, the finance minister will be asked to select qualified personnel to fill the posts left vacant by the persons who will be replaced, suspended, or dismissed, based on the report.

Any legal action will be conducted through the Attorney General's Office. I will proceed according to the recommendations made to the Executive Branch by the Fiscal Intervention Commission and will transmit the information to the Attorney General and the Comptroller General. The Attorney General's Office is the government institution responsible for legal actions. If the Attorney General's Office deems it appropriate, charges will be filed before the respective courts. I will take action to order the separation, dismissal, or suspension of the officials mentioned in the report.

Nicaragua

Lacayo Announces New Public Security Plan

PA1805184493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1724 GMT 18 May 93

[Statements by Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo from Waswali Military Base in Matagalpa—live]

[Text] Honorable Dr. Orlando Trejos Somarriba, president of the Supreme Court of Justice; Honorable Dr. Gustavo Tablada Zelaya, National Assembly president; Honorable Magistrates and Deputies; Dr. Guillermo Vargas Sandino, attorney general; fellow cabinet members; government delegates; military authorities of the Army's High Command; National Police Directorate authorities; Monsignor Leopoldo Brenes, Matagalpa bishop; Mr. Julio Cesar Lopez Hernandez, secretary general of [word indistinct]; members of the Verification Commission led by His Eminence Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo; friends; producers [words indistinct]:

From the moment when, as a result of the 1990 elections, the disarmament of the former Nicaraguan Resistance [RN] began and the war ended in our country, the mountains of Matagalpa and Jinotega from Nueva Segovia to Madriz and Esteli have witnessed numerous public order violations. Those violations were primarily land occupations by the recently demobilized RN fighters in their attempt to begin, without delay, civilian and productive life [words indistinct] clashes they had with Sandinist cooperatives occupying those lands.

These public order violations became more numerous and complicated when by mid-1991, demobilized contra El Indomable [Jose Angel Moran Flores] appeared. The heavily armed El Indomable created the recontra movement, arguing that he had taken up arms again to guarantee his own personal security in the face of the insecure atmosphere in northern Nicaragua's mountains.

That decision by El Indomable and his followers, as well as his numerous crimes in Yali, San Rafael, [name indistinct], Quilali, and others prompted the rearmament of a large group of former Sandinist combatants

who formed the recompa movement. They argued that they took up arms again to guarantee their own personal security, which, according to them, had been threatened by the recontras.

The media and important political figures took sides in this [word indistinct] dangerous parties of death. I still remember the editorials justifying the rearming of El Indomable or the rearming of recompa leaders. Partisan and personal interests were still very strong in our country.

As months passed, violence and insecurity caused by both groups generated concern among all sectors in Region 6, basically producers, peasants, and workers. That is why the government did not rest until it reached agreements for the demobilization of both groups, which occurred from January to April of 1992. Since then, we knew that despite the demobilization of 22,893 recontras and recompas organized in 83 armed groups, there were still a few other armed groups. We gave those groups the time and opportunity to make a decision.

Certain groups and gangs of robbers, however, used the government's attitude to act with impunity, thus creating an atmosphere of violence and insecurity in these northern mountains that is worse than the situation we experienced one year ago.

This was expressed by you producers to the agriculture and livestock minister in Selva Negra on 1 April and in Esteli on 5 May. You requested the government's cooperation to end this situation on both occasions,.

Today I wanted to tell you that this concern for citizens' security and the clamor to reestablish public order and end impunity was discussed by each political, economic, and social sector during the week of 2 May in the first round of the national dialogue established by President Violeta Chamorro. Representatives of the National Opposition Union, Permanent Workers' Congress, National Union of Farmers and Cattlemen, the Center Bloc deputies, National Workers Front, Higher Council of Private Enterprise, and the Sandinist National Liberation Front voiced their concern over insecurity, crime, extortion, blackmail, threats, and offenses throughout the country, but mainly in the north. They asked the government to guarantee each Nicaraguan's constitutional right to security.

The groups attending the national dialogue were so clear and consistent when discussing this issue that the government declared on 7 May in Masaya that national consensus had been reached on public security. Therefore, the government would make public today, 18 May, in Matagalpa, a series of measures aimed at guaranteeing this unanimous aspiration of the Nicaraguan people.

We are going to ensure public order and guarantee the citizens' safety with control and surveillance measures that fall within the police plan called Guarantees for Life and Work that the government minister will explain later. We are going to ensure public order and guarantee the citizens' safety by the juridical and legal measures in Decree No. 30-93 dictated by the president of the Republic on 18 May; measures we will read later.

We want to guarantee two objectives: first, to eliminate the armed groups by extending to them today the opportunity to go in the next 15 days to any of nine security zones that Government Minister Mendieta will list to be disarmed according to the law and reincorporated into the country's civilian, productive life. Second, we want to step up a generalized war on crime to ensure the safety of all citizens, the security of productive activities, freedom of movement throughout the national territory, and the full prevalence of the Constitution, the law, and human rights throughout the country.

We hope that, as a consequence of these actions, the Supreme Court will be able to proceed with its plans to open five new courthouses in the municipalities of Wiwili, Quilali, Murra, Jicaro, and Jalapa, where law school graduates will be appointed as judges.

This is not a military campaign. It is a police plan accompanied by the partial suspension of certain constitutional rights and guarantees in 14 municipalities in the northern part of the country for the precise purpose of effectively guaranteeing the right to life as stipulated in Article 23, the right to security provided for in Article 25, and the right to freedom of movement as provided for in Article 31 of our Constitution.

We are committed to the consolidation of peace, to the prevalence of our people's human rights, and to the strengthening of the judicial branch and justice. For that reason we can give assurances of full support from the central government to the National Police in the form of the resources necessary to carry out the tasks involved in this plan, and the full support of the Army for the police in the form of land and air transport, and even with military troops when the government minister believes the National Police require such reinforcement.

In addition, for this effort we want the full backing and support from authorities in the judicial and legislative branches, the church, municipal governments, farmers associations, and individual farmers. The great campaign for citizens' safety is a task for all and the government's duty. As the government, we are assuming this constitutional duty with the greatest resolution. Let us all unite in this patriotic effort and let us give the peasants and farmers of this rich northern region the opportunity to promote agricultural production and the nation's development. Thank you very much.

Decree Suspends Some Constitutional Rights in North

PA1805193493 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1724 GMT 18 May 93

[Decree No. 30-93 issued by the Nicaraguan Presidency in Managua on 18 May 1993; read by Presidency legal adviser Thomas Delaney at a ceremony at the Waswali Military Base in Matagalpa—live]

[Text] Decree No. 30-93. The president of the Republic of Nicaragua, taking into consideration that:

1. Criminal activities have been taking place persistently in certain municipalities in the country to the detriment of public order and personal safety and that these activities are a threat to the productive activities in rural areas that are so necessary for the country's economic reactivation.

2. Despite the government's constant efforts using persuasion and dialogue to reincorporate rearmed groups into civilian life, certain remnants of such groups have continued to act in a rebellious and criminal manner, and it is the government's duty to guarantee conditions of peace, stability, and the safety of citizens.

3. One of the first fruits of the national dialogue that the government of the Republic is promoting with the country's various political, social, and economic groups has been a general consensus on the urgent need to resolve this problem and to reestablish security in rural areas. This concern and worry is fully shared by the Government of the Republic.

4. The purpose of the Emergency Law is to ensure the functioning of the country's institutions and the prevalence of the rights and guarantees recognized in the Constitution whenever these rights and guarantees are threatened, including the basic rights to life, safety, and work.

5. It is therefore absolutely necessary to declare the partial suspension of certain constitutional rights and guarantees in those municipalities so that, as a reflection of the need noted, public order and safety can be reestablished in those areas in response to the widespread demands of farmers and cattlemen, who need tranquillity and a climate of trust to devote themselves to their patriotic labor of reactivating Nicaragua's agricultural economy.

Therefore, exercising the authority conferred by Article 150, No. 85, and Article 186 of the Constitution, and Article 2 of the Emergency Law, the president has issued the following decree called: The Declaration of the Partial Suspension of Rights and Guarantees in Certain Municipalities of the Country.

Article 1. Because the nation's security and economic conditions so require, a partial suspension of the following constitutional rights and guarantees is hereby declared in the territories that comprise the following municipalities:

A. Quilali, El Jicaro, and Murra in Nueva Segovia Department.
B. San Juan de Rio Coco, Madriz Department.
C. San Juan de Limay, Pueblo Nuevo, and Condega, Esteli Department.
D. Rio Blanco, El Puma, La Dalia, and Waslala, Matagalpa Department.
E. Wiwili, La Bocay, San Rafael del Norte, and San Sebastian de Yali, Jinotega Department.

Article 2. Consequently, the rights and guarantees recognized in the following constitutional provisions are hereby suspended in those areas:

Constitutional Article 26, No. 2, Part I.
Constitutional Article 33, Paragraph 1.
Constitutional Article 33, No. 1; No. 2.1, Part 1; No. 2.2; and No. 4.

Article 3. The remaining constitutional rights and guarantees are ratified and maintained in those areas, and all constitutional rights and guarantees are retained in the rest of the country, since the foregoing measures are designed solely to reestablish public order and safety in the areas listed.

Article 4. The partial suspension of rights and guarantees is hereby declared in these areas for the period of 30 days, effective on this date. This period may be extended as need dictates.

Article 5. The decree will go into effect as of its publication in any public media, without precluding its subsequent publication in DIARIO OFICIAL, the official gazette.

Issued at the Presidential Palace in Managua on 18 May 1993
[Signed] Violeta Barrios de Chamorro, president of the Republic of Nicaragua.

Mendieta Discusses Constitutional Suspension

PA1805211893 Managua Radio Nicaragua Network in Spanish 1724 GMT 18 May 93

[Statement by Government Minister Alfredo Mendieta during a ceremony at the Waslali Military Base in Matagalpa Department—live]

[Text] Gentlemen heads of the state branches; Gentlemen Army members; Gentlemen deputies, judges, and special guests: As you heard Presidency Minister Antonio Lacayo say, the government's concern over the crime situation in the Regions 1, 5, and 6 prompted the security cabinet to hold extraordinary meetings and conduct a vast program to draft a plan to stem clearly this situation in these areas. As points of reference, in 1991, the National Police succeeded in dismantling 189 crime gangs. In 1992 the figure rose to 288. In the first quarter of 1993, 68 gangs have been dismantled. We can say this figure is approximately 48 percent higher than during the first quarter of last year. This means that, based on these figures, by the end of the year we will have dismantled 300 gangs. I say based on these figures because the National Police, Army, and the Special Disarmament Brigade [BED] are to be credited for the dwindling number of gangs in our country.

Criminal activities, which are losing with every passing day the political connotations some sectors tried to attribute to them, have met with a response by the Army and the National Police. Many have spoken of the

impunity with which these gangs are operating in the country. I will, however, briefly read some figures that can clearly show impunity does not exist. From 22 December 1992 to 17 May 1993, 83 clashes have taken place; 83 clashes in approximately five months. The Army and the National Police have been the target of 14 ambushes; there have been 10 attacks on different towns and 15 instances of harassment. As a result of these clashes, 14 soldiers and six policemen were killed, and 19 soldiers and 12 policemen were injured. One soldier is missing. The casualty toll among the armed gangs through 17 May is: 80 dead, 90 injured, and 14 reported missing. This makes a total of 184 casualties inflicted on these gangs.

As you can see, these figures are truly alarming and reveal that these gangs do not go unpunished, since they have been the target of constant operations by the National Police and the Army. In the effort toward disarmament, in 1992 we created the BED, which has been working with a staff of 600 men devoted exclusively to disarmament. We can say that from 21 January to 31 March 1992, three months exactly, we were able to disarm 22,000 men who surrendered over 15,150 war weapons and a similar amount of explosives. Claymore mines, fragmentation grenades, 75-mm mortars, 60-mm mortars, M-79 grenade launchers, and war missiles were part of the arsenal we were able to collect. In the summer 1992 plan, from 1 April to 31 May, we were able to collect 23,392 war weapons held by civilians. In the winter plan, from 1 June 1992 to 24 February 1993, we collected 5,092 war weapons. In the summer 1993 Plan, through 17 May, we collected 3,949 weapons. This makes an overall total of 47,583 weapons that were held by civilians and criminal elements. Within that framework, the security cabinet worked and held constant meetings among its members. Afterward, as a result of the National Dialogue, the Presidency assigned the security cabinet the task of drawing up a special plan to make a final effort to disarm these elements once and for all.

As Minister Lacayo said, it became necessary to implement, through the legal system, extraordinary measures, while in the operational sector control and vigilance aspects had to be increased so the plan would achieve the desired success. We involved all central government structures and the various ministries to support this plan. We also obtained the decided cooperation of the Sandinist People's Army [EPS] to organize this plan. The EPS placed at the Government Ministry's disposal the personnel and material necessary to implement the plan. We also talked with various producers, as Minister Lacayo pointed out, through the various government ministers.

We were also able to speak to other sectors of Nicaraguan society and to the international community. We spoke with the OAS International Commission of Support and Verification to set out this plan clearly. We met with His Excellency Monsignor Miguel Obando y Bravo. We met with political parties; we met with different sectors to request their full support so that this plan would not only be supported by a nationwide consensus—as this was already a clear fact—but so that it would also benefit everyone across the board in our nation.

To achieve this, special areas were outlined in which some minimum special measures would be enforced to enable efficient work. The following departments will be affected: Nueva Segovia, Esteli, Madrid, Matagalpa, and Jinotega. Of the 46 municipalities in these departments, 14 will be affected by the special measures. This will be made public when the presidential decree is read. Since extraordinary measures always cause fear among some social sectors and can always become an issue to be manipulated by some sectors, we have received very clear instructions from Antonio Lacayo, cabinet coordinator and Presidency Minister. To implement these extraordinary measures, we must accompany them with additional efforts to assure the community that the measures will only serve the purposes for which they have been conceived.

In this framework, we met with the Supreme Court of Justice, with the president of the Court and all the justices, to whom we presented an extensive explanation of the plan. They have assured us they will send new judges to these municipalities so that they can work jointly with the police to investigate cases in a speedy fashion. We will only make use of these extraordinary measures, in a responsible manner, to the extent that it is necessary for this plan to succeed. To this effect, the justices have assured us of the immediate installation of new courts in the municipalities of Quilali, Jicaro, Murra, and Wiwili, in addition to others already installed in the [word indistinct] area. In addition, the central government has made a commitment to cooperate with the immediate installation of courts in other municipalities where they are required.

Parallel to these measures, as a [word indistinct] we are designating some disarmament security zones. We are giving all those who have taken up arms a time limit so that they can enter these zones under the protection of the EPS and the police to proceed with the disarmament. Nine security zones have been designated for disarmament. These zones are in Nueva Segovia Department the area of Sungano north of Quilali; in Esteli Department the area of San Geronimo known as Laguna Seca; in Jinotega Department the areas of La Pita del Carmen and El Dorado; in Matagalpa Department the San Pedro del Norte, Aulo, and Cubali areas; in Boaco Department, the Sixihuas area northeast of Camoapa, and in Chontales Department the areas of [word indistinct] and El Cacao. We are granting a time limit from 18 May until 1 June, exactly 15 days, for all those who have taken up arms to go to those security zones under the protection of the police and the EPS to proceed with the disarmament.

It was also necessary to designate large economic, human, and mobilization resources to ensure the success of these measures. The National Police is providing 370 men to reinforce the forces that were already assigned to

this activity, making a total of 595 men devoted exclusively to this task. We are also extending precise instructions to the BED, which has a troop strength of 571 men at this point, to make the immediate implementation of these measures its sole, priority task.

We are assigning the top chiefs in these departments to coordinate these operational measures; namely, Commander Roger Ramirez of Matagalpa Department, Commander Luis Enrique Rodriguez of Esteli Department, and Commander Marco Ruiz of Nueva Segovia, Captain Alonso Sevilla of Madriz Department, and Captain Angel Gonzalez of Jinotega Department. They will be responsible for implementing these measures in their areas.

We are fully aware of the status of the coffee crop this year. Although prices are not optimal, as we would all like, the crop is excellent. One of our priorities at this time is to patrol continuously access roads to the coffee plantations to make it possible for coffee producers to move about safely, to carry their payrolls in all safety, and to make a profit from the long hours of work they put in on their farms.

I believe it is important to note that one of the main problems in our country has been the lack of trust. At times there is constant criticism of government actions. At times, if something is done, people ask why; if it is not done, why not? If something is done, why was it carried too far, or not far enough? There is always a lack of confidence in what others are doing.

I wish to make it absolutely clear that the government wants to look into this problem in depth and make every effort possible to guarantee clearly life and labor, not only in these sectors, but throughout the entire country.

You have seen the efforts made in Esteli, where as soon as we received instructions from the president, we sent a large contingent of forces that is already operating. As a result, it was possible to resolve three kidnappings in Esteli: the cases of Evenor Castillo, Reinaldo Valenzuela, and Mario Castillo. From the police standpoint, those cases have been completely resolved.

We also dismantled five gangs that committed assault and robberies, kidnappings, and cattle rustling. Some 25 citizens have been bound over for trial. We have collected 44 assault weapons, and 40,800 man hours have been devoted to this activity. This is undoubtedly an indication of the scope of our effort. Effective 18 May, we will increase this activity by the number of troops that we have mentioned.

We ask you to have confidence in these measures. We ask for your firm cooperation with these measures. I believe that with the effort of all sectors of our national life, we will be able to make the effective progress that we have set as our goal.

Thank you very much for your attention, and we will proceed to read the decree. [applause]

* Changes in Ocotal Police Reported

93P20173A

[Editorial Report] Managua LA PRENSA in Spanish of 23 April 1993 on page 9 reports that Assistant Commander Marcos Ruiz Rizo has replaced Captain Boanerges Toruno Blandon as chief of the Police Division in Ocotal. Blandon will be second in command, replacing Gorky Galeano Peralta who has been appointed head of the criminal investigation department. Adolfo Meza Bravo, formerly assistant chief of police in Somoto, will be head of the Public Safety Department. Angel Mericy Moncada will be head of the secretariat in Somoto, leaving his post as head of Information and Analysis in Ocotal, which will be filled by First Lieutenant Eddy Peralta of the Jalapa Police.

Argentina

Cavallo Denies Postponement of YPF Privatization

PY1805213293 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 18 May 93 p 5

[Excerpt] (NriDYN)—Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo denied yesterday that the privatization of the state-owned oil company YPF [Government Oil Deposits] will be postponed until the end of the year.

The minister said that, on the contrary, "the sale date could be brought forward," in his answer to a front-page story in the daily AMBITO FINANCIERO yesterday morning.

"Now is the best time to make a public offer, not only of YPF but of any company." Cavallo claimed, basing his affirmation on the tory, the source cent sales-drive tour of Europe and the United States.

Speaking to the press after addressing the National Meeting of Argentine Exporters, Cavallo stated that "rarely have I found so much interest shown (by investors) in Argentina, so I don't see who could have thought up the idea to postpone the issuing of YPF shares, if anything we should be thinking about bringing the date forward."

Cavallo said that yesterday's press allegations that the government was thinking said.. oning the public offer till December were a "figment of the imagination ...those sort of publications have no other purpose in mind but to alter the correct functioning of the capital markets in Argentina."

Cavallo pointed out that "the government can't think of delaying the launch, especially when society is demanding that we cancel the debt to pensioners."

Yesterday's report indicated that the government was thinking of postponing the sale until December and that the banks handling the sale of YPF shares were willing to make an advance payment of some 2.5 billion dollars so that the debt to senior citizens could be settled by August and thus avoid a hasty sale of the oil company which could give rise to legal complications. [passage omitted]

Brazil

Franco Rejects Formation of 'Groups' Within Cabinet Team

PY1805142793 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 17 May 93 p 5

[Text] Brasilia—Planalto Palace yesterday distributed an official note in which President Itamar Franco recommends the resignation of those ministers who, without identifying themselves, criticized his behavior in comments to reporters. The note says: "Why do they insist on continuing in government? Why don't they leave immediately?"

According to the note, disclosed by adviser Francisco Baker, the president notes that ministers can be "dismissed ad nutum" (at the president's discretion), and he rejects the formation of groups among his team. According to Franco, command over the cabinet, which is an "indivisible single unit," belongs to the president, and "its division in blocks, ideological groups or any other group cannot even be conceived or imagined."

The disclosure of the note can be interpreted as an effort to stop the division caused in the team by the retaining of Finance Minister Eliseu Resende, who was accused of benefiting the business group Construtora Norberto Odebrecht, for which he had worked in the past. On 12 May five high members of the government met in the house of Administration Minister Luiza Erundinha to define a strategy through which the "left" could fight for power with Resende.

On 13 May Roberto Freire (PPS-PE) [People's Socialist Party- Pernambuco], government leader in the Chamber of Deputies, who attended the meeting in Erundina's house, indicated to the president that his group identified Resende's strong position as an "articulation of the right." It was President Franco himself who guaranteed immediately that his economic policy would continue to be identified with the thoughts of the government's "more progressive" wing. Franco added: "I am certain I am not implementing the policy of the right."

According to the politicians linked with Planalto Palace who last weekend attended a meeting of the PFL [Liberal Front Party] leadership in Natal, President Franco feels uncomfortable under the pressure of the government's "left" and would be willing to create a "conservative pocket" in the cabinet reshuffle expected in the next few days.

Therefore, in order to satisfy the PP [Popular Party] which is emerging as a new political force in Congress, President Franco will have to approach Federal District Governor Joaquim Roriz, who represents the new party. Based on that logic, Franco would be trying to find a place for Carlos Sant'Anna (who was a minister under the Sarney administration and who is currently the health secretary of the Federal District).

Another candidate would be Sao Paulo Vice Governor Aloisio Nunes Ferreira, who on indications from Sao Paulo Governor Luiz Antonio Fleury Filho would become industry, commerce, and tourism minister, while current Minister Jose Eduardo Andrade Vieira could leave the government or be appointed agriculture minister, replacing Lazaro Barbosa.

Franco Discusses National Defense With Military

PY1905012193 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television in Portuguese 2300 GMT 18 May 93

[Report by Alexandre Garcia in Brasilia—live]

[Text] President Itamar Franco met for more than four hours behind closed doors with the military ministers. A 45-line message was just distributed after the meeting, which has just concluded. In summary, the message states the following:

The meeting was called by the president to carry out a routine examination of national defense issues. First, they analyzed the social situation of the Armed Forces' professionals, mainly their salaries, considering the national budget crisis. They then expressed special concern about the modernization of the Armed Forces' equipment. They also examined separatist movements based on alleged racial superiority. They examined injustices in internal relations within the country and the privileges of large groups of interests.

The message also asks patriots for patience, intelligence, and respect for the country. It also quotes [prominent Bahia politician] Otavio Mangabeira: Democracy is a tender plant that must be very well looked after.

The last paragraph of the message states: Democracy cannot commit suicide by allowing the state to be tolerant of its enemies. Democracy has the duty to defend itself with legal instruments. The government has respected the right to strike and freedom of the press but it will not hesitate to resort to all the instruments foreseen by the Constitution to guarantee order, labor, life, and the dignity of the Brazilian people.

President Itamar Franco attributes the greatest importance to this final paragraph.

U.S. Exercises in Guyana Said No Cause for 'Concern'

PY1905001193 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 May 93 p 6

[Text] Admiral Mario Cesar Flores, secretary of strategic affairs, yesterday stated in Brasilia that the training exercise held by elite U.S. troops at the Guyanese border with Brazil is "a small one" and should not "cause any major concern." He said the exercise is designed to familiarize U.S. personnel with the jungle, possibly with a view to engaging in drug enforcement operations.

General Gilberto Serra, the Army Ministry spokesman, stated that the Ground Force [Forca Terrestre] had received prior notice of the exercises and its Intelligence Center has been monitoring them. Serra noted that there have been no security reinforcements at the border because of these exercises.

Editorial Comments on U.S. Military Exercise, Border Issue

PY1905024293 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 18 May 93 p 3

[From the "Notes and Information" page: "An Artificial Crisis"]

[Text] The positions invariably adopted regarding national border defense problems—especially the controversial Calha Norte project—prompt us to comment on the uproar caused by the exercises that 175 U.S. soldiers from the Panama Command just carried out in Guyana, 100 km from the Brazilian border. We are one of the few who always defended the project in discussion, not because it is a military project, but because it pertains to the defense of our territory, which is one of the Armed Forces' basic functions. Not even for this reason can we agree with the argument that the Panama Command maneuvers in Guyana is an issue that could threaten Brazilian territorial safety. Notwithstanding the risk that such an argument might be considered ridiculous, the subject was nonetheless treated this past weekend as a threat to Brazilian territorial safety by the president of the Republic and high-ranking Army and Navy officers. To the military invocation that the issue could represent an eventual threat to our sovereignty, President Itamar Franco answered: "The government is and will always be alert to any military maneuvers on its borders. Like in the case of Guyana." With the aggravating factor that for the first time it was revealed in public that the Panama Command always had expressed interest in this kind of joint exercises with the Brazilian Armed Forces, and had twice received a solemn no for an answer during the Sarney and Collor administrations.

This latest uproar is a political and military uproar at the same time. One can understand the reason for which the military is concerned with the subject: Overall, they are not only struggling to assert the need for enough means with which to defend the national territory, but also for always maintaining the troops in operational conditions. It is curious nonetheless that the president should have endorsed a claim in which national and particular interests are mixed, giving "state" status to the issue. This is curious because civilian power does not provide the military men with any Brazilian state political objective, and it does not demand that they prepare any set of strategies for any determined objective nor does it offer them resources to do one thing or the other. Then, in the face of this lack of political objectives clearly established by civilian power (the presidency and Congress), it is natural that the military should attempt to call attention to subjects they consider sensitive. In a country in which the Amazon region is taboo and "North American imperialism" continues being the "enemy" by excellence, what better excuse is there to show to the politicians who do not help solve the Armed Forces' problems than to say that armed forces—not to speak of elite U.S. Army troops—are in the Amazon, 100 km from our border?

Can we ask ourselves why, in the middle of the crisis we are living in, create an artificial crisis that might yield political dividends even though they may affect relations between Brazil and the United States?

Army Editorial Terms Separatist Movement 'Barbaric'

PY1805162593 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 15 May 93 p 4

[Text] Brasilia—On 14 May Army Minister Zenildo Zoroastro de Lucena authorized the prior dissemination of an editorial that will be published in the next issue of the Army newsletter. The editorial terms "barbaric" the separatist movement emerging in the south of the country. The article alerts the Armed Forces that they must guarantee the unity of the federation. It also indicates that the emergence of "civic abnormalities recommending a moral and ethical behavior that is condemnable" are responsible for the current crisis ("an acute social and economic imbalance" and "an accentuated lack of understanding of basic needs").

The newsletter will circulate on 17 May. The editorial recalls Articles 1 and 142 of the Constitution, which establish the indissoluble unity of the federation and the role of the Armed Forces in defense of the fatherland and in guaranteeing institutional power, the laws, and order. It also recalls the role of the Armed Forces in regional integration, with its program for agricultural expansion in the north of the country, as it also recalls that the Armed Forces contributed to the development of the southeastern area of the country and in the consolidation of Brasilia.

The editorial stresses: "Brazil has welcomed immigrants of various nationalities, and as they settled here they became perfectly integrated, decisively helping with the sweat of their labors, with their work and intelligence, together with the rest of the Brazilians, to push this country toward its great destiny. These Brazilians are therefore participants in national development."

Homemade Bombs Explode at Pernambuco University

PY1805145193 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 93 p 5

[Text] Three homemade bombs exploded in block B of the Catholic University of Pernambuco on 14 May, creating confusion among the 200 students in the university facilities. The police have opened an investigation to find those responsible for the explosions.

The first bomb exploded around 2100 in one of the bathrooms on the fifth floor, and the other two 10 minutes later in bathrooms on the third floor. None of the university officials wanted to talk about the event. The bombs, which scared the students, did not have great destructive power.

Figures on Angra-1 Nuclear Waste Storage 'Deceptive'

PY1805153493 Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 17 May 93 p 8

[From the "Swann" social column]

[Text] Reports on the nuclear waste stored at the Angra-1 nuclear electric power plant have been deceptive.

There are actually 50 metric tons of waste instead of the 26 metric tons which have so far been officially reported. Last Saturday Angra-1 director Pedro Figueiredo reported the mistakes to deputies who were visiting the plant.

The active life of the waste—Cesium-137, xenon, uranium, and plutonium—is some 30,000 years.

Technicians Inspect Nuclear Plants in Brazil, Argentina

PY1805154693 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 May 93 p 21

[Article by Tania Malheiros]

[Text] Rio de Janeiro—The Brazilian-Argentine Agency for Accounting and Control (ABACC) of nuclear materials has concluded an inventory with information on the quantity of uranium and plutonium in stock in Brazilian and Argentine nuclear plants. According to physicist Carlos Feu Alvim, ABACC secretary general, the information has been coded by agency technicians.

The inspection is part of the bilateral agreement signed by the two countries in 1991 for the exclusive peaceful use of nuclear energy. Alvim said: "An environment of trust between the two countries prevails." He added that until June the site to be inspected is the Aramar Research Center in Ipero, Sao Paulo State, where the Navy is enriching uranium through the ultra-centrifugal process. The same work will be done at the Pilcaniyeu Nuclear Plant in Argentina, where uranium is enriched through the gaseous-diffusion process.

The information contained in the inventory will be compared with the stock of uranium and plutonium existing in the two countries. To be certain that Brazil and Argentina will not use nuclear energy for making nuclear weapons, their units are being surveyed by 25 Argentine and Brazilian inspectors. They must also conclude by December the inspection work for all the activities of the parallel Brazilian military nuclear program. The ABACC has a budget of $2.5 million (91.1 billion cruzeiros) for this year. The money is also used, mong other things, for the purchase of equipment abroad.

Dan Beninson, president of the Argentine National Commission for Atomic Energy (CNEA), told AGENCIA ESTADO that in the future it would be possible for Brazil and Argentina to unite their nuclear programs. He also said the Institute for Nuclear and Energy Research (IPEN) of Sao Paulo and the CNEA are carrying out a study to have the irradiated uranium that had already been used as fuel in the Angra-1 nuclear plant to be used in Argentine nuclear plants. The uranium used in Angra-1 will help prolong the life of natural uranium in the Argentine plants.

According to Beninson, another study will allow the Aramar Research Center to increase from 5 to 20 percent the enrichment of uranium produced in the Pilcaniyeu plant. With that percentage the uranium could be used in Argentine research reactors.

Colombia

Communications Minister Interviewed on Censorship

PA1905005393 Santa Fe de Bogota Emisoras Caracol Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 18 May 93

[Telephone interview with Communications Minister William Jaramillo Gomez by Dario Arizmendi and Judith Sarmiento in Santa Fe de Bogota—live]

[Excerpt] [Arizmendi] Television is again in the news. A higher court judge has replied to the request by the Inravision [National Institute of Radio and Television] director and the Communications Ministry for an explanation on the ruling on the protection suit regarding sex and violence on television. On 17 May, the National Television Watchdog Commission [Comision Nacional de Vigilancia de la Television] asked the Inravision Board to change the scheduling of 12 programs that it felt did not meet the existing standards, as part of an effort to try to protect children in line with the new Constitution. Communications Minister William Jaramillo Gomez is on the telephone. How will the censorship system be established for television newscasts, based on comments by the higher court? Good morning.

[Jaramillo] Good morning. I am not familiar with the statement by the higher court because we had not received any communication to that effect when we held the meeting of the National Television Council. I learned about it through the media. Meanwhile, the National Television Council is going by Resolution 04, which informed the Inravision director of the ruling by the court when it struck down paragraph number four of the ruling issued by the 16th judge. It is clear prior censorship cannot be implemented on television newscasts. That is impossible, as they would no longer be newscasts. We will establish immediate controls after the fact. That means, a decision on broadcasting images of violence that the newscast may have broadcast is left in the hands of the Inravision Board of Directors. This becomes their responsibility. Inravision's interdisciplinary commission will make the decision to establish if the newscast has gone beyond the parameters outlined by the ruling on the protection action suit and the Minors Code and then take measures to penalize or suspend the newscast, depending on the seriousness of the content of the news.

[Arizmendi] Isn't that decision too subjective or arbitrary? Imagine that a newscast broadcasts the very cruel and heart wrenching images of war in Bosnia? Is that violence? Is that abetting violence? Is that traumatizing a child?

[Jaramillo] The ruling is clear, and we must make a distinction between two things. Sex is one thing and violence is another. Sex has been present in the history of mankind since its dawn; there is the Adam and Eve case. Violence has been present in the history of mankind since its dawn; there is the Cain and Abel case. What happens is that the judge's ruling states what must be prevented—because it talks of things to prevent—and that is broadcasting sex scenes that are highly pornographic or morbid. In the case of violence, which is another topic although the two are probably linked here, the ruling bans scenes that defend crime or incite people to violence, or scenes that reinforce the incitement to violence. For that reason this is a little subjective and the interdisciplinary commission is acting based on the criteria. I repeat: A protection action is a protection action.

[Arizmendi] Somehow there is a contradiction here. I am against it, but the court says protection action should apply at all hours, including during television newscasts. You are, therefore, not applying a protective action, but are changing the concept.

[Jaramillo] No, we are applying protective actions anyway, but we cannot apply something that is impossible to apply, for example, the prior control of a newscast. It is absolutely impossible to do it because it would no longer be a newscast. How can I ask a newscast that goes on the air at 1900 to submit its program content to us five or 48 hours ahead of time? We might be able to do it with a news review program.

[Arizmendi] Would you not be violating the court's concept?

[Jaramillo] No, we are not violating the court's concept. Something that is impossible to accomplish in an immediate or previous manner as the ruling states is not a violation. We can implement an immediate control after the newscast is over. It is done according to the type of program.

[Sarmiento] Bearing in mind that with the application of protection action it is possible for the government to violate a fundamental right that says there will be no censorship in Colombia, is it possible for the government to send an urgent message to the Constitutional Court so that it speaks out on the subject or review the protection action suit to establish how far we can go with this?

[Jaramillo] The government cannot send an urgent message to the Judicial Branch. The government sends urgent messages to the Congress, according to the Constitution and the law, when the situation requires that an action be taken on a bill being discussed in Congress.

[Sarmiento] The Constitutional Court should review the ruling. It does not have the obligation to do it, but it does review cases such as this one. They should go ahead and speak out before we face serious consequences to the television media and the country.

[Jaramillo] I understand the Constitutional Court has always reviewed extremely important rulings such as the one just handed down by the Santa Fe de Bogota higher

court. Citizens should feel confident that these decisions will be cleared up. [passage omitted]

Teachers Stage General Strike 18 May

PA1905002193 Santa Fe de Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1730 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Approximately 240,000 public schoolteachers went on strike for an indefinite period of time today at 0700 [1200 GMT]. At least 7 million students of both primary and secondary schools are affected by this protest. This news team visited several cities where the strike is on.

In Valledupar, the teachers' strike led to other actions. In addition to the strike, two buses of an urban transportation enterprise were set afire. No one was injured or killed, but losses amounted to 50 million pesos. According to the teachers' union leaders in this part of the country, the 6,500 local teachers, or 100 percent, have joined the general strike. The teachers will remain in an information session today. At 1700, they will stage a protest march through the city streets.

On the Atlantic side, 350 secondary schools closed down as part of the strike declared by the area's 6,000 teachers on Fecode's [Colombian Teachers' Federation] instructions. During the morning, the local teachers held an information meeting. In addition, they plan to take over the city on Thursday, 20 May with the cooperation of parents and students from all municipalities.

With a demonstration that clogged the city's center and stretched as far as 12 blocks, teachers, students, and union federation delegates this morning marched from the Santander Square to the Luis Carlos Galan Square in support of the teachers' strike that started in the department at 0800. According to the organizers, this is an indication of the strike's success, which stopped the work of some 11,000 teachers and 400,000 students throughout the department.

In Norte de Santander, the cessation of 7,000 teachers' activities started at 0700, affecting nearly 250,000 students. The strike also affected the ongoing vaccination drive, which has been held in schools since 10 May.

In most of the Antioquia capital's schools, 800,000 students attended classes normally. Only a few primary and secondary schools had their doors closed. Nevertheless, the 22,000 Antioquia teachers have said that they support the strike and will join it some time this week.

While Bogota's 30,000 teachers are meeting in nearly 800 primary and secondary schools, 770,000 students could not attend classes. As expected, most of the schools are empty. The few students who went to school played sports. FECODE has confirmed that there will be a march tomorrow from the municipalities to departmental capitals, and on 26 May all of the teachers will march from the country's cities to Bolivar Square in Bogota.

This time, the teachers' strike is not due to the permanent fight over timely payment or salary increases. They want to go further. They want two bills, which they say affect them very much, dismissed. Of course, they are not taking into consideration the workers' general benefits.

Up to the last minute, the government tried to prevent the strike, but the disagreement runs deep. The teachers demand an amendment to Bill 120, which deals with the municipalization of resources and educational competitions. This bill, if approved, would virtually do away with FECODE because it gives mayors full power to appoint teachers and decide on salaries. The government, however, intends to stand firm.

[Begin recording] [Treasury Minister Rudolf Hommes] This will not be easy to settle.

[Reporter] Do you expect to yield?

[Hommes] They expect us to yield. The teachers also demand the dismissal of the social security bill, which is currently being debated in the House of Representatives. The teachers want to create their own pension fund and not be covered by the rest of the workers' fund.

[FECODE President Jaime Dussan] We wish to underline the need for the presence of the social security bill proponents and the labor minister to discuss the bill. [end recording]

Finally, the teachers defend the education law, come hell or high water, because this law protects the teachers' statute, which in turn guarantees job stability. The FECODE strike has affected over 7 million students. In the past 10 years, 18,252,236 hours of class time has been lost because of strikes, but this is probably FECODE's most difficult struggle. The strike could be prolonged.

Ecuador

CONADE Leader Reports Inflation for Apr

PA1905044993 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 2300 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Pablo Lucio Paredes, executive secretary of planning of the National Development Council, Conade, said the inflation rate for April was 3.9 percent [as heard] and is within the estimates and expectations that were forecast by the government in its effort to reduce the inflation rate to 20 percent by the end of the year.

[Begin recording] [Paredes] It has had an impact on the inflation rate but that was already foreseen in the macroeconomic program and therefore, the government's same goals and objectives are maintained.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Paredes] In April it was 3.6 percent, it is ....

[Reporter interrupting] Was it not four....

[Paredes, interrupting] No, no, no. Forgive me, but the correction was for the month of March. It had been reported that the inflation rate was 2.3 percent, but it was corrected to 2.9 percent.

The inflation rate for April is 3.6 percent, and there have been no changes to that, even if some politicians or analysts have said it was 4.3 percent. That is their mistake.

The 3.6-percent inflation rate for April is maintained. It is important to clarify that.

It has been a little higher, but not because of the economic policy, but because of the effects of all the blocked highways, the floods, and the tragedy of the Paute River. All of these things have obviously caused some speculation in the markets and therefore, the inflation rate has been a little higher than estimated, but the government's goals are still maintained.

[Reporter] Will the salary hikes in July affect the rates?

[Paredes] At this moment, all that has gone up is the telephone and the electric rates, nothing else.

[Reporter] But there is talk of salary hikes.

[Paredes] All possibilities are being analyzed. Everything in the economy is being analyzed, and that is evidently part of the analysis, but no decision has yet been made yet in that regard.

[Reporter] [words indistinct] guarantees there will be no increase to the price of fuels.

[Paredes] As I said before, all that has been decided are increases to the electric and telephone rates.

However, what I do think is important is the fact that if the government's goal of a 30-percent inflation rate is maintained—and it will be maintained—this year the people will see a recovery in their purchasing power. This means that the purchasing power of salaries will increase and this is clearly something that the government will maintain. [end recording]

* Police Take Down Drug Trafficking Group in Manta

* Organization Described

93WD0553Z Guayaquil VISTAZO in Spanish
22 Apr 93 pp 43-47

[Text] The coastal network, with bases of operations in Manta, Guayaquil, and Machala, was the second most important after the Three Kings band. A new and transcendent victory for the police in their fight against drug smuggling.

Tempted by abundant and easy money, some 60 people had come together, more or less since 1988, under the leadership of Colombian drug smugglers who spread them along the Ecuadorian coast to carry out various tasks involving that illegal business.

The bases of operations were Guayaquil, Manta, and Machala. The method was the following: The Colombians, totaling some 20 in this band, were primarily responsible for passing the drugs from their country to ours, and making contacts with Ecuadorians to ship the drugs, preferably to the United States and Europe. To that end, they used prostitutes who seduced crewmen on ships, Ecuadorian couriers, and unlucky exporters, charging up to $1,000 per kg for these shipments.

Organization

After the successful "Operation Cyclone" in June 1992, against the organization headed by Jorge Reyes Torres, the police's special antidrug unit on 18 March 1993 carried out its "Operation Coast," the second great blow dealt to this Colombian-Ecuadorian network that smuggled drugs from "people" in Bogota and Cali. They have arrested 28, while 31 are still at large. All of them had their possessions seized, which according to an initial estimate could be worth as much as $11 million.

The Ecuadorian drug smugglers in the group are almost all from Manta. One of them, Mariano Cecilio Moreira Zambrano, Manabi counsellor in 1988 for the Ecuadorian Roldosist Party (PRE), who was held in custody for 12 days in January 1991 for drug smuggling, gives us an example of how recruiting took place and how the organization functioned.

"Because of my bad financial situation, I had the opportunity to meet Mr. Gonzalo Santos, when I was a candidate for Manabi Province counsellor, and he was running for municipal treasurer of Sucre Canton, around 1988. In one of my conversations with Gonzalo Santos, he explained that I could recover financially by shipping drugs to the United States, and that I should thus get my money together, while Gonzalo Santos would contact the people who carried the drugs to other countries." He started with two kg that he bought from Raul Cruz Trivino of Manta, then Santos introduced him to Colombian Tony Gonzalez, "who brought drugs in from Colombia," and the latter told him that he had to go to Cali "to talk with some Colombians who ran the business." He did so, and there met Rony N. and Eleodoro Leon. There they asked him to go to Barranquilla to meet with someone nicknamed "the old man," but he did not go, and with the ones from Cali agreed that Tony Gonzalez would send him drugs from Colombia through Jorge Arciniegas or Jorge Salarreaga, who would deliver the merchandise to him at the Guayaquil Land Terminal, which is what happened, in effect. Gonzalo Santos remained as his guarantor.

In February 1993, Santos introduced Moreira to the members of a ring that had already been operating in Guayaquil. Their meeting place was at the apartment of Ecuadorian Ruth Noemi Ruiz Saavedra, and attendees included, among others, Colombians Pablo Plazas, Eliceo Loaiza, Alberto Bustos, Jorge Arciniegas or Jorge Salarreaga, Marco Figueroa Ojeda, Esperanza "Yayita"

Enriquez, Jaime Maldonado Paris, and Ecuadorians Jorge Escalante Caicedo and Victor Emilio Zambrano.

The leader of the group of Colombians, in the view of the police, was Jorge Arciniegas, who shipped large quantities of drugs, together with Jaime Maldonado Paris.

Shipments in Machala

Through Esperanza Enriquez, the police learned that Marco Figueroa managed the overseas drug shipment operations from Puerto Bolivar, Machala.

The method was the following: Mercedes Torres Valarezo, a prostitute by profession, easily gained access to the ships, where she seduced sailors who were then introduced to Figueroa. He proposed to them the business of transporting the drugs, and once they agreed, Figueroa sent the drugs with a trusted taxidriver like Luisin Hernandez to Mercedes' home, who passed them to her brother Carlos Machado Valarezo, a port employee, who in turn passed them to the guard at the same port, Segundo Estacio Vasquez, who arranged for the merchandise to arrive at its final destination: the sailors. Thus they proceeded in a final attempt to send drugs with Filipino sailors.

In Manta

The business in Machala, apparently, was a small one; the big one belonged to the Manta band. There the shipments were divided in half: the big ones through the Medranda Group of export companies, and the small ones through Alberto Antonio Carrillo Van Noort, a pharmacy owner.

We begin with the Medrandas. The police believe that this family, which is well known throughout the country, has been involved in drug smuggling for some five years. They began with "Choco-coca," a shipment of chocolate with cocaine made in the CADESA factory in Guayaquil, but the permission to export the 1,200 boxes of chocolate in which drugs were hidden was obtained through Manabita Cocoa Company S.A. (Manacoa), headquartered in Manta, and belonging to Jorge Medranda Chavez. That was confirmed in the documents signed by his son and manager, Jorge Medranda Peralta, which are being held at the Western District Court of New York, United States, where the case is being assembled that could be extended to both Medrandas.

The buyer of that chocolate was Armenia Coffee, of New York. The shipment left Guayaquil on 10 June 1988 and arrived at Port Newark, New Jersey, on 28 June, 1988. During the unloading, Customs inspectors discovered the cocaine and on June 30, together with DEA [Drug Enforcement Administration] agents disguised as drivers, entered the warehouse of Toronto Imports and Exports, located at 100 TEC Street, Hichville, Long Island, where they seized 5,000 pounds of cocaine.

Further Implicated

Four of those arrested in Operation Coast: Eliceo Loaiza, Jaime Maldonado Paris, Esperanza Enriquez, and Ramon Eugenio Cedeno Garcia, further implicated the Medrandas when they declared that in December 1992 they had deposited 256 kg of chlorohydrate of cocaine at the Medranda Exports warehouses, km 4.5 on the Manta-Montecristi road.

Loaiza recounts how a Colombian named Jaime N. (he refers to Jaime Maldonado Paris), fearing that drugs were being stolen from him by another Colombian, Pablo Plazas, asked him where he could keep a shipment. Loaiza asked Victor Emilio Zambrano, who he knew in Libertad, who told him "in Manta, with Mr. Jorge Medranda." Ramon Cedeno, driver for the Medrandas, stated that Jorge Medranda Sr asked him to take the Ford 800 truck, light blue, license plate MBD-115, to bring salt back from Libertad. Then he went to the Bahia Norte Commercial Center in Guayaquil, where he loaded some packages which, on the road to Manta, Zambrano told him was "cocaine, and that these drugs were worth 600 million sucres." Later at Medranda Exports, the shipment was unloaded by Cedeno, Zambrano, and the brothers Jorge and Jaime Medranda Peralta.

According to what Jaime Maldonado told Loaiza, "part of the drugs was from the people in Bogota, which Jaime was responsible for, and the other part from someone in Cali...the owners of the drugs contracted with Jorge Medranda Sr to send the merchandise overseas, but after some days there was a disagreement, as he had brought his son Jorge into the deal, who asked for a great deal of money for the shipment."

When this deal failed, Jaime Maldonado took back the 100 kg belonging to him and took them to lawyer Bowen (according to the police, Carlos Bowen), who offered to send the drugs overseas, but since the deal had not been formalized, this cocaine was returned to Guayaquil. The 156 kg remaining to Jorge Arciniegas were left with the Medrandas, and Loaiza assumes that they shipped them overseas.

In fact, the police discovered that 100 kg had been shipped to Germany camouflaged in 500 sacks of cacao that the Manacoa company exported around that date, according to Tito Medranda Alcivar, in the name of Mr Javier Montenegro Andrade, "who lives part way between Quevedo and Quito. This person was accompanied by Colombian Marcel Acevedo...they departed from the port of Guayaquil on 4 February on the Humboldt Express steamship. The destination was Tasko company, in Hamburg, and the co-signer was the Alfonso Koster company, domiciled in Bremen...." On instructions they received from David Ronny and Luis Carlos Vasquez in Colombia, part of the merchandise was unloaded in Hamburg and the rest in Bremen, with Holland as its final destination.

The police have not established a connection between this Manabi family and Jorge Reyes Torres, but his name appears in Jorge Medranda's address book.

Other Manta Residents

Responsible for sales at the lowest levels was Alberto Carrillo in Manta, a close friend of Mariano Moreira, owner of the "Mar y Flor" restaurant located on Avenida Malecon, where they planned the deals with the Colombians.

Carrillo had as his drug provider Colombian Santiago Perez, a Cali resident, who sometimes came to Manta. Shortly before Operation Coast they delivered to him 12 kg, but since the courier Luis Alfredo Arteaga "Pepin" had asked for a larger quantity, Carrillo asked Moreira for 40 kg. The latter's Colombian friends gave him the merchandise at the Guayaquil Land Terminal, whence he departed for Carrillo's pharmacy in Manta. There, on 18 March, the police trapped Carrillo with his wife Maria Eugenia Andrade, his sister-in-law Gertrudis, and his son Rafael Eduardo, and Moreira with his son Richard. They had 41 kg of cocaine in their possession.

Simultaneously, the ones in Guayaquil and Machala fell, and through their statements the police planned the capture of the Medrandas. With that in mind, they met on Thursday the 25th with the VIII Penal Court of Manabi to obtain the appropriate warrants, and the same day their family lawyer and Manta PUR [Republican Unity Party] counsellor Jose Alava was informed of the fact and warned the Medrandas to flee. As accomplices in this act the police arrested court secretary Narcisa Rosado, who was held for several hours, and advisor Johnny Santana, who is still being held.

The operation against the Medrandas came on Saturday the 27th, but they only succeeded in capturing Tito, Jaime, and Washington, while Jorge, Sr., and Jr., believed to be the heads of the business, escaped.

Other important fugitives are Ecuadorians Victor Emilio Zambrano, Gonzalo Santos Velez, Raul Cruz, and Colombian Jorge Arciniegas with his top chiefs.

In this operation, which had been planned for six months and involved 200 police, goods were seized from the Medrandas valued preliminarily at around $11 million, not including four vehicles, seven properties, a number of jewels, and $60,000 that Israelis Bar Amiram and Jacobo Jacobovitz had taken to the band's hideout in Guayaquil to buy drugs, just when the police were about to arrive.

* Front Companies Listed

93WD0553Y Guayaquil VISTAZO in Spanish
22 Apr 93 pp 49-50

[Text] Jorge Medranda earned his fortune exporting coffee and cacao. In 1977, the group had 10 businesses. The financial problems began through bad administration and a large debt in dollars.

Jorge Medranda Chavez began his productive life selling cebiche in the streets of Manta. He then had the opportunity to work with some coffee merchants, and while cleaning the warehouses every day, he learned the business, became independent, and with the assistance of presidents of the republic in the mid-1970's, he started company after company and was spoken of as one of the richest men in Manabi.

His first company was Medranda Exporters, in operation since 1966. In 1977 the Medranda Group was comprised of 10 firms: Medranda Exporters (of coffee), Manacoa (Manabita Cocoa Company), Manalgodon (the El Recreo hacienda, which raised and sold cattle), Manabal (production of scales), Inmobidelsa (Delfin real estate), Manapez (ice factory and refrigeration facility for fish), Manacafe (coffee exporter), Publisol (a publisher that printed the EL SOL daily), Rocadura (producer of construction bricks), and Jorme (agroindustry).

According to the police, the companies were run by the father and four of his nine children: commercial engineer Tito Medranda Alcivar, a son from an earlier marriage; commercial engineer Jorge; lawyer Washington; and Jaime Medranda Peralta.

According to the police, in properties alone, including those occupied by the 10 companies, Jorge Medranda Chavez was worth at the time 21.64 billion sucres, equivalent to some $11 million.

The appraisal of the facilities has still not been completed, but a short time ago Jorge Medranda Chavez received an offer to buy the land and facilities of one company alone, Manacoa, for $3 million (6 billion sucres).

Just in the area where the exporters are concentrated, we were able to count 20 silos and thousands of meters of warehouses and cement floors.

Not Very Clean

But this wealth was not obtained in a very licit manner. Tito Medranda, 46, stated that a seal of the Central Bank of Ecuador with the label "Jorge E. Delgado, Responsible for Paying and Receiving," that the police found at the companies "was made by ourselves many years ago when we were exporting coffee and cacao...this fact was completely unknown to Mr. Delgado because that seal allowed me to evade or modify the taxes on all types of exports...."

Furthermore, in February 1990 the Medrandas were involved in imports of 30,000 tons of rice overpriced by $1,110,000. On 5 April 1990, VISTAZO made the accusation that in this deal Medranda Exporters was associated with a daughter, a daughter-in-law, and a partner of Carcha businessman Jorge Argotti Morillo, who called himself "advisor" to the group.

Enormous Losses

They say that bad luck hit them at the end of the 1970's, with the departure from the Medranda Group of an outstanding executive who decided to start up his own exporting firm, and Tito confirms it when he says that in 1978 they bought more than 400,000 quintals of coffee at 6,000 sucres, but because of a drop in the international price, they sold at 1,800 sucres, which "resulted in a loss of

capital for the first enterprise, Medranda Exporters. Gradually capital losses resulted from each one of the enterprises comprising the Medranda Group. Since approximately 1988, whole bean exports have stopped almost. I believe that the last exports of cacao and coffee took place in 1990, and since then they have stopped 100 percent."

According to the police, the financial statements indicate that in 1988 and 1990, Manapez had profits of some 60,000 sucres per year, while losses, in 1989 and 1991, were on the order of 4.9 million and 4.1 million, respectively.

The financial statements for Manalgodon are not yet available, but we know that its principal holding, the El Recreo hacienda, which with the San Jose hacienda formed a single unit that was for sale, was something of a cash cow. On those 1,274 hectares located in Canoa Parish, 20 minutes from San Vicente, facing the Bay of Caraquez, they invested in cattle the equivalent of the family's maintenance expenses and the payroll of some 60 employees working for the Medranda Group.

The financial situation in the other companies was worse: Medranda Exporters lost 101 million in 1992; Manacoa, 148 million in 1992; Manacafe, 4 million in 1992; and Manabal, 13.1 million in 1992.

Moreover, of the 30 properties owned by Jorge Medranda Chavez, the 10 believed to be the largest were mortgaged.

Because of these bad numerical indicators, the Manabi financial system closed its doors to them and refused checking accounts and credit to the companies and even their executives. The police only found two family savings accounts, in the Pichincha and Los Andes banks, with monthly movement of 40 million sucres, but they are also investigating a bank account in New Jersey, United States, which according to Tito Medranda belongs to some family members who have never utilized it.

Warnings of the financial disaster came about on 17 October 1984, when Jorge Medranda Chavez presented to a civil judge in Pichincha a "request to suspend payment" to his creditors "because of a shortage of liquidity," due to problems with the exports and to "my debt in dollars which has multiplied because of the constant devaluations."

Now people are asking, where is the money from the supposed drug smuggling? Was it used to purchase more properties or to save the mortgages? Was it deposited overseas? Were the dollars in the house, and the Medrandas took them when they fled? The police say they found the strong boxes empty.

The Network

Colombian Chiefs	Ecuador-Colombia Axis	Guayaquil Group	Manta Group	Machala Group
Tony Conzalez*	Jorge Arciniegas o Salarreaga*	Ruth Ruiz	Jorge Medranda Chavez	Marco Figueroa*
Santiago Perez	Jaime Maldonado Paris*	Victor Zambrano	Jorge Medranda Peralta	Mercedes Victoria Torres
	Pablo Plazas*	Eliceo Loaiza*	Tito Medranda Alcivar	
		Esperanza Enriquez*	Jaime Medranda Peralta	
		Jorge Escalante	Washington Medranda Peralta	
		Carlos Olazabal**	Alberto Carrillo Van Noort	
			Raul Antonio Cruz Trivino	
			Cecilio Mariano Moreira	
			Gonzalo Santos Velez	

*Colombian; **Peruvian

[Photographs of above not included]

Paraguay

Bill Seeks To Cut Presidential Power Over Armed Forces

PY1805181293 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 15 May 93 p 6

[Text] If the military organization bill that the executive branch yesterday submitted to Congress is approved, the commander in chief of the Armed Forces will become a mere figure within the Armed Forces' functional structure.

The bill that President Rodriguez submitted to Congress intends to transfer most of the main functions and powers that the commander in chief presently enjoys to the commander of military forces, a post that the bill proposes creating through law, although Vice Admiral Eduardo Gonzalez Petit was already assigned to the post some time ago.

The bill obviously intends to turn the commander of military forces into the effective military authority. While under the terms of Law 74/91—which is currently in force—the commander in chief of the Armed Forces, who is the president, has the power of "exercising effective command over the Armed Forces," the new bill transfers this "effective command" to the commander of military forces. The post of commander of military forces should be filled by an officer "with the rank of Army general, admiral, or Air Force general."

In addition, the commander of military forces will propose military regulations, the organization and distribution of military forces, plans for national defense, and the designation and removal of the Armed Forces' commanders. He will also be in charge of designating and removing the commanders of units and organizations, and service directors. The power to designate and remove officers is now exercised exclusively by the commander in chief, who is empowered to "design and order" the implementation of such measures.

Under the terms of the new bill, the commander in chief will only be empowered to "exercise the Armed Forces' command" and "propose the designation and removal of the commander of military forces, of the commanders in chief of the Army, the Navy, and the Air Force, and of military personnel fulfilling expenditure control functions."

A significant detail is that the bill was submitted before the installation of the new Congress, in which the government may not have a majority to back the bill. Under the current circumstances the bill is more likely to be approved, as the Colorado Party holds a majority in both chambers of Congress.

Wasmosy Confirms Military Support for Colorado Government

PY1805151593 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 May 93 p 8

[Report by correspondent Emilce Ramirez]

[Text] Carapegua—The self-proclaimed [autoproclamado] president of the Republic, Juan Carlos Wasmosy, stressed on 16 May that his government will be supported by the Armed Forces in such a way that democracy—which, he conceded, has been implemented thanks to the Colorado Party—will be guaranteed for decades and centuries. This remark was made during a gathering in which General Lino Cesar Oviedo also participated.

Wasmosy participated in a luncheon that gathered some 1,500 persons at a country house located in this city. Among those who attended the luncheon were Oviedo; the self-proclaimed president; [Vice President-elect] Roberto Seifart; departmental authorities; Juan Esteche, government delegate for Paraguari Department; and Herminio Caceres, the department's future governor.

Wasmosy's remarks were learned of after Angel Roberto Seifart had stressed that the Colorado Party would defend the elections results by force. The most likely future occupant of Government House—according to results released up to the present time—expressed his satisfaction that the Armed Forces would continue, in a partisan manner, to guarantee the existence of a Colorado government.

He also remarked that those members of the opposition who are asking for the retirement of some members of the military, and who want to blemish the olive green uniform, are members "of countries that have had to import liberators and create false heroes." He stressed that here in Paraguay, liberator heroes were exported, and the country has military heroes from two victorious wars.

He said that come what may, the unrivaled Colorado Party has demonstrated to everyone its power, its nationalism, and its republican fervor at the ballot boxes.

The Colorado leader said that during the 1993-1998 period his government will respect the minority opposition. "I can assure you we are going to govern by using the democracy of the majority, and at the same time we will respect the minority."

"We are proud of belonging to the Colorado family, and of being good Paraguayans; within the Colorado bastion we are going to work together to make our party even more dynamic, and through it we will write the most brilliant pages in our history," he said.

Wasmosy also criticized the opposition, stating that those who do not want to acknowledge the victory of the Colorado Party do not have the psychological capability of adapting to change, and that this is why they are delaying the historic recognition that the Colorado Party is the finest, and that it will continue to govern this Republic.

OAS Observer Notes 9 May Electoral 'Irregularities'

PY1805152893 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 18 May 93 p 3

[Text] Dr. Ruben Perina, general coordinator of the Organization of American States observers in our country, yesterday told Radio Nanduti that "outstanding irregularities" had been detected during the elections of 9 May. He said, however, that the irregularities had not been sufficiently extensive to harm or modify the final results of the elections. "There were serious deficiencies, and also positive and negative facts, but everything can be improved," he said.

Perina emphasized that the organization would not declare anyone the winner of the elections before making a detailed study of all aspects of the process. He added that the OAS observers "have detected irregularities such as the improper designation of members of voting stations, from which representatives of parties and

movements were excluded; the last-minute transfer of voting stations to districts, disregarding the deadline established by the law; problems in the counting of votes; the forgery of electoral records in some places; the improper retention of records of vote tally proceedings; the delayed designation of voting station board members, implemented on the day of the elections; political propaganda in voting stations; errors and omissions in voters' lists; and interference in the work of the press and the watchers of democracy."

Not Massive

He added that it is undeniable that there were irregularities, but explained that "such irregularities have so far not been found to be sufficiently generalized or massively adopted throughout the country as to question the validity of the elections. They are deficiencies in the system, but there are also positive aspects."

He added that no judgment can be passed on the elections until all the votes are counted.

"We are neither judges nor arbiters of the Paraguayan electoral process. We are merely observers, and as such we will note all the negative and positive aspects that we could detect during the elections," Perina said when asked about the mission of OAS observers in our country.

"There Were Irregularities"

"Undoubtedly, there were irregularities in the electoral process, in the relations between the Central Electoral Board and the regional electoral boards, and in the electoral courts. Until a short time ago, no one knew who would be designated members of the electoral courts... There were serious deficiencies, but this does not mean that things have not improved, and we will note the positive and negative aspects of the elections," he emphasized.

He said these elections were better than the municipal elections of 1991. "The point is that electoral processes and democracy itself are not perfect, but perfectible. Progress has been made, despite the fact that things have not been as perfect as one would have liked," he said.

Peru

Army Generals Expel Gen Robles Espinoza From Army

PY1805192593 Lima EL PERUANO in Spanish 12 May 93 p A1

[Excerpt] General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza was yesterday labeled unworthy of belonging to the Peruvian Army by the generals of that military institution, who decided to expel him and erase his name from the registries.

In this regard the generals categorically rejected General Robles Espinoza for his criminal and cowardly attitude and for staining the honor of the uniform entrusted to him by the nation.

The document was signed by 54 generals at the conclusion of a meeting of the Army General Command, and was disclosed to the public. The generals also rejected the accusations made by Robles Espinoza against his Army colleagues, saying that the accusations hurt the image of the institution and that an evaluation of him as a man and as a soldier shows his lack of honor and gentlemanliness. [passage omitted]

Order Disciplinary Measure Against Robles

PY1805214993 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 11 May 93 p A4

[Excerpts] The Army General Command has ordered a disciplinary measure against General Rodolfo Robles Espinoza, who has been discharged from duty on charges of having committed serious discipline infractions against military service, honor, dignity, and duty.

The measure was enforced through Supreme Resolution No. 179 DE/EP, dated yesterday and released to the media through the Army Press Office (OIE). [passage omitted]

The possibility that the military courts, which began to prosecute Gen. Robles Espinoza, might request his extradition from Argentina has been ruled out. [passage omitted]

Sources from the military courts' Supreme Council said Gen. Robles Espinoza, who arrived in Buenos Aires on 8 May with his family, has been charged with insubordination, offending his superiors, and abandoning his assignment or deserting. [passage omitted]

The same measures have been adopted for Captain Jose Robles Montoya and Army Lieutenant Roberto Robles Montoya, who are Gen. Robles Espinoza's children and who travelled with their father and are now temporary residents in Argentina.

CCD Approves Regional Governments' Decentralization

PA1805010293 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 May 93

[Report by Eduardo Lindo Collantes from the Democratic Constituent Congress, CCD, in Lima—live]

[Text] [Lindo] The Democratic Constituent Congress [CCD] Commission for Constitutional Affairs has practically concluded its approval of the chapter on reforms to the text dealing with decentralization and municipal authorities. There is interest in whether the addition of an article through which the metropolis of Lima and Callao, as well as the province capitals with the rank of metropolis, will have a special system. Mr. [Miguel]

Velit, chairman of the Decentralization, Local Governments, and Social Development Commission, what will that special system be?

[Velit] What we seek with this special system is for the municipalities organization law to establish order and the jurisdiction of each municipality, above all those that have the rank of metropolis within a national context. This has been clearly established because some municipalities are also department capitals but they do not have the rank of metropolis, and vice versa, meaning others that have the rank of metropolis even though they are not department capitals. That is why the municipalities organization law must clearly establish the possibility of a special system to solve problems at local level.

[Lindo] Does that mean Lima and Callao will have a single mayor, Mr. Velit?

[Velit] Definitely. We believe in the possibility that both the province mayor of Lima and the province mayor of Callao can be replaced by a single mayor, who will settle things at a local level. Both Lima and Callo are fully integrated and if we do not consider them as such, this could create a problem. We also believe Callao Province will maintain its constitutional rank, as well as its own revenues and benefits. We will respect this for Callao district's benefit because there is no reason why Lima's districts should benefit from this.

[Lindo] Thank you, very much. These were the statements given by Mr. Miguel Velit, chairman of the CCD's Decentralization, Local Governments, and Social Development Commission.

Fujimori Says Strike Shows Weakening of Shining Path

PA1905021893 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] For the second consecutive day, President of the Republic Alberto Fujimori toured the city's main streets to verify that the people's activities were carried out normally.

The president stated the public forces are following the trail of Shining Path leaders Feliciano, who heads the military command, and Cox (Deusebil), who is a political leader.

[Begin Fujimori recording] Shining Path has tried to regroup its Metropolitan Committee, which has received harsh blows. The effects are showing now from the blows at the beginning of the year. At this moment Shining Path has no political or military cadres.

We are working on capturing Cox (Deusebil), who supposedly is Shining Path's political leader, and Feliciano Ramirez Duran, who is the military commander.

These are Shining Path rebels who are still acting independently, approximately 50 of them, and this allows us to control the situation in Lima. The situation at San Marcos University is completely different than we could imagine only two years ago. San Marcos University is a center for study where the young people come to study and the teachers come to teach. In spite of the so-called compulsory strike, the situation is completely normal. [end recording]

President Alberto Fujimori said this compulsory strike demonstrates that Shining Path is weakening.

The President also confirmed his trip to Seoul, South Korea in July.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] Instead of showing a show of force, this so-called compulsory strike shows that Shining Path is weakening. We will continue to fight until Shining Path is totally annihilated.

[Unidentified reporter] [Question unheard]

[Fujimori] Yes. It is possible that I might travel to South Korea, and to Japan for a technical stop. I received an invitation for an official visit.

[Reporter] On what date?

[Fujimori] In early July. [end recording]

Bus Burning, Bomb Reported at Marketplace

PA1805190793 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] [Announcer] Terrorists have set afire a bus belonging to the 20 de Mayo Company at the third block of Augusto Beleguia Road in San Martin de Porres. Police have brought the situation under control. The bus license plate number is UI-3199. Rocio Vicente has more information:

[Vicente] Terrorists placed a homemade bomb at the Malache Market, located on the fifth block of Reaguero Avenue in El Agustino. No large amounts of damage or injuries were reported.

At this time police and Army troops are conducting search operations and a helicopter is flying over the area. In Rimac District, on the extension of Tacna Avenue and Francisco Pizarro Avenue, the Army and police are conducting search operations. So far, more than 30 persons have been arrested for not carrying identification. They will be taken to the area police station.

Venezuela

Police Forces Placed on 'Permanent State of Alert'

PA1905005993 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2336 GMT 18 May 93

[Text] Caracas, 18 May (EFE)—The Venezuelan police have been placed "on a permanent state of alert" and are ready to "immediately and strongly repress" eventual disruptions of public order, it was reported on 18 May by an official source.

The pertinent orders have been issued to the governorates by the Interior Ministry given an imminent Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] ruling on the request for a trial against President Carlos Andres Perez for alleged corruption, and "the assumption of an increase in subversive activities" throughout the country.

National Guard General Raul Santana, director general of police coordination in the Interior Ministry, also reported the governors have instructions "to deal immediately and strictly with any illegal action that may disrupt public order, peace, and the citizenry's tranquillity," according to the official news agency "Venpres."

Santana added that riot equipment has been distributed to all the barracks; security forces will act according to the law; and, "if it is necessary to use force, then it will be used to guarantee the tranquillity that the majority deserves."

The government has ordered a deployment of security forces in Caracas to strengthen surveillance in vital areas, above all in government buildings, where National Guard troops—a military corps—have been posted.

The CSJ has confirmed that on 20 May it will announce to the country its decision concerning the request presented by Prosecutor General Ramon Escovar Salom for a trial against the president for an alleged act of "embezzlement and misappropriation."

The government believes opposition parties, especially the leftist parties, are creating the conditions for riots if the CSJ decides on 20 May that there are no grounds to try Perez for corruption.

Rafael Narvaez, deputy of the ruling Democratic Action (AD) party, on 18 May directly blamed former Venezuelan President Rafael Caldera for "issuing veiled appeals to the people, urging them to participate in demonstrations" if the CSJ rejects a trial against Perez.

Caldera ruled the country from 1969 to 1974 with the Social Christian Party, Copei, and he is virtually a candidate for reelection in the December elections.

He is supported, above all, by the Movement Toward Socialism (MAS), whose leaders include old members of the Venezuelan guerrilla groups that operated in the 1960's, which Caldera helped return to civilian life during his administration.

The left has claimed no involvement in the government's insistent messages to remain alert given a possible "return of the subversive groups," and leftist spokesmen have said the government is creating "a dramatic situation" to justify eventual measures of force.

Minister Denies Plans for Special Security Measures

PA1805183093 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1740 GMT 18 May 93

[Report by Yolanda Valeri]

[Text] We have never considered suspending constitutional guarantees or implementing any special security measures to prevent violent actions after the Supreme Court of Justice rules on whether there are grounds to try President Carlos Andres Perez, Celestino Armas, minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency, has said:

[Begin recording] [Armas] We have not considered any measures of that sort.

[Unidentified reporter] No measure is planned regardless of what the court ruling might be? No action is planned?

[Armas] We must wait for the court ruling. We understand there could be a ruling on 20 May. At any rate, different options were already assessed. The president has spoken clearly to the country. I do not foresee major difficulties in this regard. [end recording]

The minister of the Secretariat of the Presidency said the Interior Affairs Ministry, Defense Ministry, and Caracas Governor's Office launched a special security plan over the weekend of 15 to 16 May to protect banking institutions. He added the deployment of this police force, however, has no relation whatsoever to the ruling on whether there are grounds to try President Perez.

Supreme Court To Meet 20 May To Decide Perez Case

PA1805180593 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1715 GMT 18 May 93

[Report by Erica Corrales from the Supreme Court building in Caracas—live]

[Text] I am at the office of Dr. Enrique Sanchez Rizzo, Supreme Court secretary, who has flatly denied that the court will hold a plenary meeting in the next 24 hours, before the scheduled date, to decide on the proposed pretrial of Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez, as has been requested. I have him here and he will clarify the situation. It was not until 18 May that the other magistrates were called to attend this 20 May plenary meeting.

[Begin Sanchez recording] Reports that distort the truth disrupt the citizens' tranquillity. The people want to be calm and await the legal process. The court has offered to be strictly subject to the law. Supreme Court activities have been totally normal and on schedule. The schedule has not changed. In midmorning I sent out notices calling for a plenary meeting at 1000 [1400 GMT] on 20 May to consider Supreme Court President Dr. Gonzalo Rodriguez Corro's motion for pretrial proceedings for

the president and those mentioned ministers. In any event, there have been distorted reports that are not in keeping with reality. Such reports disrupt the citizens' tranquillity. The citizens must remain calm. Please do not heed reports that are not issued officially by the Supreme Court. [end recording]

President Accused of Pressuring Magistrates

PA1905044093 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 12 May 93 p 1-15

[Text] Freddy Munoz, general secretary of the Movement Toward Socialism [MAS], charged that President Carlos Andres Perez is exerting pressure and carrying out maneuvers against Supreme Court magistrates to keep them from ruling against him and determining that the case merits a preliminary hearing.

Munoz, who held a news conference at a room in the Chamber of Deputies, said that Carlos Andres Perez, in his coming and goings, is becoming the person that has been messing up the Venezuelan political process the most.

The country is angry and surprised to learn that Perez, who announced a week ago that he would resign if the Supreme Court found reason to try him, is now saying that this possibility has never been mentioned. It is difficult for a person to be more shameless and disrespectful with the conscience of the Venezuelan people.

According to the secretary general of the MAS, the most serious issue, is the pressure that Carlos Andres Perez is exerting on the Supreme Court members by various means in an attempt to force them to rule in his favor and keep them from deciding that his case merits a preliminary hearing.

Carlos Andres Perez' strategy, according to Munoz, is to resign and designate his replacement in case the Supreme Court decides a preliminary hearing should be held, which is a violation of the Constitution.

If the court does not approve the preliminary hearing, an extremely serious situation will be created because a terrible blow will have been dealt on the national judicial system. The confidence Venezuelans still have on the authority and honesty of the system would collapse and a greater, more radical, overall discontent would be generated.

According to Munoz, it is important to prevent Carlos Andres Perez' pressures from being successful, and the MAS believes the Social Christian Party, Copei—with which it has great differences—should join the actions carried out by the opposition forces to ensure that justice prevails.

The magistrates should have the necessary strength to make a difficult and extremely important decision, in keeping with the law.

Copei Opposes Perez Decision To Select Replacement

PA1805030793 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 May 93

[Report by Zaida Pereira]

[Text] The Social Christian Party, Copei, believes it is inappropriate for President Carlos Andres Perez to designate a minister to replace him if the Supreme Court rules against him.

According to a study conducted by Aristides Beaujon, chairman of the Senate Domestic Policies Commission, the president of the Republic—if he does not resign—must abide by the Constitution and allow Octavio Lepage to be acting president for a month while a successor is appointed. Copei National Executive Committee Directorate reported on 17 May that it would be inappropriate for a minister to assume power.

[Begin Copei Secretary General Jose Curiel recording] We categorically agreed to reject the possibility that a minister could become provisional president of the Republic. The analysis was done based on a detailed study of the Constitution. The person who must be left in charge of the presidency, according to the Constitution, is the Senate president. A provisional president must be subsequently elected for the rest of the presidential term. [end recording]

The Copei National Executive Committee did not discuss the problem between the Democratic Action party and Humberto Celli, its president. Jose Curiel said his party does not get involved in the internal affairs of other parties.

Copei Official on Replacement

PA1805234593 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 93

[Interview with Jose Curiel, Social Christian Party, Copei, secretary general, by Liliana Castano at Miraflores Palace and Julio Cesar Camacho at the Caracas Radio studio in Caracas—live]

[Text] [Castano] We are here with Jose Curiel, Social Christian Party, Copei, secretary general. He will tell us about his meeting with President Carlos Andres Perez, at which they probably talked about the possibility of a trial against the president. What can you tell us Dr. Curiel?

[Curiel] Both Copei President Hilarion Cardozo and me, as secretary general of Copei, were summoned by the president to explain the position adopted by Copei National Executive Committee [CEN] on 17 May. Copei does not consider it legally feasible or beneficial for our national interests for a minister who is appointed by the president to assume the presidency of the Republic. We believe and ratify what we said: If the president is suspended by the Senate, then the president of the

Congress should assume the post and a Congress plenum should appoint a president later.

[Camacho] Dr. Curiel. Hello?

[Curiel] Yes.

[Camacho] Can you hear me? This is Julio Cesar Camacho from the studio.

[Curiel] Yes, of course.

[Camacho] If Liliana Castano will allow me, I would like to know what does Copei think about this tense situation?

[Curiel] Well, that....

[Camacho, interrupting] Caracas is militarized by the police and there are reports about the existence of guerrilla groups here and there.

[Curiel] Well, I believe....

[Camacho, interrupting] Aldo Cermeno says it is not true.

[Curiel] I believe we should not exaggerate things, meaning the state must maintain order and stop anti-democratic groups from taking advantage of conflictive situations like this one. The police must maintain control, but we must not exaggerate things because that is unjustified at the moment.

[Camacho] Do you think there is any justification for the closure of an enormous area of El Paraiso and all these series of measures that, far from....

[Curiel, interrupting] I think that, unless there is a reason I do not know about at this moment, it is not appropriate to carry out this type of measure. This only affects normal activities and causes suspicion.

[Camacho] There are reports about pressure being exerted on the Supreme Court of Justice [CSJ] and its members. In fact, security measures have been increased tenfold at the CSJ. Was this necessary?

[Curiel] Well, I think that....[pauses] in any case...[pauses] no pressure has been exerted by Copei. We have not.... [pauses] we respect the CSJ's decisions and we hope others will do the same. I believe the adoption of measures to protect the CSJ.... [pauses] they are actually preventive measures due to the situation.

[Camacho] It was even believed the CSJ members would adopt a decision before 20 May due to the pressure on....

[Curiel, interrupting] I have no idea. I have no idea. [repeats himself] I have unofficially learned the CSJ could adopt a decision on 20 May, but that is simply unofficial information and I cannot confirm it because I am not a CSJ member.

[Camacho] Is there any other information that you discussed with President Perez?

[Curiel] No, the president summoned us because he wanted to personally hear what Copei CEN had decided on 17 May. We simply told him exactly what was decided on 17 May.

[Camacho] It is essentially what you have recently told the president.

[Curiel] Exactly what was reported by the media on 18 May.

[Camacho] You confirmed that you disagree with the idea that the president should appoint a substitute.

[Curiel] Exactly. Congress should appoint the person who will be in charge of the presidency.

[Camacho] Dr. Curiel, thank you. You have been very kind.

[Curiel] Thank you.

[Camacho] That was Dr. Jose Curiel, Copei secretary general, who was also interviewed by Liliana Castano at Miraflores Palace.

Newspaper Warns of Possibility of Self-Inflicted Coup

PA1805170193 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1525 GMT 18 May 93

[DIARIO DE CARACAS 18 May editorial: "The Country Rejects the Self-Inflicted Coup]

[Text] We learned from the old teachers of Latin American journalism in exile that the only weapon journalists have to avert a coup d'etat is to publish a warning of such a possibility in order to abort it. That is why EL DIARIO DE CARACAS has responsibly warned since April 1992 of the idea of a possible Venezuelan-style Fujimori that was in minds of some people.

More than two months had passed since the first coup attempt of 4 February, and no necessary changes had been made to bring about a democratic solution to the crisis. Some sectors suggested giving the president the necessary extraordinary powers to turn his decisions into law without debate at Congress; in other words, a self-inflicted coup.

Fortunately the idea was never implemented, and it was not until 8 September when EL DIARIO DE CARACAS felt obliged to make a similar warning. Everything indicated that the government was preparing a self-inflicted coup to avert or reply to the expected coup attempt. There was no other explanation for the clumsy actions that could have provoked a state of emergency, such as the contradictory statements on national security matters, exaggerated police repression, the return of terror exemplified by lists of possible attacks, and finally, the attacks themselves.

Fears of a self-inflicted coup were dispelled with agile handling of information about what had happened on 27 November, retransmissions of the video of the small

pink shirt [camisita rosada; not further identified], the carnage at channel 8, and the destruction of the Air Force School. It was no longer necessary.

EL DIARIO DE CARACAS again feels obliged to issue the same warning because a self-inflicted coup today is more than a possibility. According to reliable information received by this newspaper, sectors close to power that are convinced this crisis has a constitutional solution fear the court might rule in favor of trying the president.

In addition to maneuvers to avert such a possibility, which started with an attempt to restore the case and allow the president to justify legally his appointment of a replacement, even though the replacement would not assume office by virtue of a trip or ailment on the president's part, now there is additional pressure in two directions. First there are attempts to create anxiety in the high military command by leading its members to think the trial will make them lose their positions and that promotions would be frozen. Second, there are attempts to convince magistrates, who have assured us they will not disqualify themselves, to either accept the challenge or disqualify themselves.

More than 6,000 policemen are already on Caracas streets. They will be tired both physically and psychologically when the ruling is announced. The atmosphere will be propitious for provocations leading to violence, and that would lead to a state of emergency.

For the good of the country, however, neither the Armed Forces nor the current magistrates will lend themselves to these maneuvers. The ongoing process should continue along its constitutional course and strengthen democracy. The country rejects a self-inflicted coup.

Governor Denies Ordering Newspaper Confiscation

PA1805173093 Caracas Radio Caracas Radio Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 18 May 93

[Telephone interview with Arnaldo Arrocha, governor of Miranda State, by station announcer Julio Cesar Camacho—live]

[Text] [Camacho] Mr. Governor, good afternoon.

[Arrocha] Good afternoon, Julio Cesar. How are you?

[Camacho] Very well, thank you. Happy to hear you over all the radio stations that broadcast Radio Caracas Radio Network throughout the country by satellite. Mr. Governor, what is your opinion of the current situation in the country?

[Arrocha] Well, the situation is tense, because of the national crisis. For this reason, all the governors have made a very serious, very responsible appeal to the people to remain peaceful and calm. The democratic system has constitutional solutions. We must wait for compliance with the law as established by the Constitution.

[Camacho] With regard to Miranda State, how have things been in the past few days? How do you view the situation there?

[Arrocha] The situation in Miranda State is completely normal. There has only been the matter of the nationwide teacher's strike, which has been reflected here. There have been some demonstrations of support and solidarity for a demand that we feel is a justified one, given the critical situation prevailing in the country. But undoubtedly we should intend to or maintain an attitude that favors reaching a solution to the problem in line with the circumstances that currently exist here.

[Camacho] Mr. Governor, thank you very much for this information. I want to ask you a final question. We have received several reports from Los Teques that the newspaper DIARIO DE CARACAS was confiscated by police officers because of its supplement [encartado], or perhaps because of its editorial. Do you have any information on this?

[Arrocha] Julio Cesar, I can state that my government has not ordered the confiscation of any newspaper. I have been trying to ascertain where such an order came from. I called the police commander—he is right here beside me—and he can attest to the fact that he did not receive from the governor or any official in this office the order to pick up that newspaper.

[Camacho] We were pretty sure that was the case, Mr. Governor, but we wanted to have you state it personally that it was not by your order, and that if indeed this paper has been confiscated in some parts of Los Teques today, it was done by the police [as heard]. Mr. Governor, you are very kind, and I hope you have a good afternoon.

[Arrocha] Thank you very much, Julio.

Official Says Economic Activities Not Paralyzed

PA1805025893 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 17 May 93

[Text] The president of the Republic, as well as the rest of the Venezuelan people, are waiting for the Supreme Court decision. This does not mean economic activities are paralyzed, Angel Zambrano, Central Information Office director, stated at the Miraflores Palace.

In this regard, Zambrano said there is a certain uneasiness, but economic activities are being carried out as usual, even though there are groups that are trying to promote certain fears to diminish the levels of commercial activities.

[Begin Zambrano recording] There is evidently a certain uneasiness, but it does not mean commercial and industrial activities in the country have been paralyzed. I believe everything is normal, but people are obviously feeling the effects of a type of plan to promote fears of all types, not only in the area of security, but also in the area of economics. [end recording]